BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.109 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 44 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 10 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 6 PAGES OF TIMES PROPERTY* (*FOR CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

US secretary of state Marco Rubio meets Pope Leo XIV at Vatican City amid tensions sparked by President Donald Trump's criticism of the pontiff over the Iran conflict

A note allegedly found by Nicholas Tartaglione after Jeffrey Epstein's first suspected jail suicide attempt was unsealed by a New York judge, years after being sealed in court records tied to an unrelated dispute

India's women's recurve team secure the country's first medal at Archery World Cup Stage 2 with a stunning semifinal win over 10-time Olympic champions South Korea, sealing a historic final berth, P 15

Actor Nora Fatehi appears before the National Commission for Women in connection with the 'Sarke Chunar' song controversy and apologises, saying there is no intention to offend anyone or hurt public sentiments, P 9

Hitmen hired to kill Suvendu's aide conducted recce for 72 hours: SIT

They Came On 2 Bikes, Used Glock Pistols

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Kolkata: The assailants who fatally shot Bengal BJP functionary Suvendu Adhikari's PA Chandranath Rath at Madhyamgram near Kolkata airport late Wednesday were professional killers hired to target him, investigators said Thursday based on evidence suggesting they spent 72 hours scoping the site of the shooting.

The assailants – at least four were spotted – fired eight rounds from Glock 47X semi-automatic pistols. Three bullets each struck Rath, 38, and the person at the wheel of his SUV, Buddhadeb Bera. A third person in the rear seat, Mintu, escaped by ducking. He is being questioned. Bera is critical.

The killers, on two motorbikes, used a hatchback to waylay Rath's car before firing at point-blank range through the front passenger window. The gang discarded the hatchback at a distance.

One of the motorbikes has been found in the vicinity. Investigators have since discovered that the number plates on the car and the motorbike are fake. The chassis numbers had been scrubbed out to make it doubly difficult to trace the owners, officers said.

The hatchback's registration number matched that of a car owned by William Joseph, a tea garden employee at Haler Math in Shivmandir under Matigara-Naxalbari constituency of north Bengal. But investigators confirmed that Joseph, who was interrogated at Pradhannagar police station, had no link with the crime.

A special investigation team (SIT) led by CID inspector-general Anup Jaiswal and including officers of the Intelligence Branch, Special Task Force and Barasat Police is now conducting the probe.

▶Premeditated murder, P 6

Rath's mother said she could not seek death for anyone, but sought life term for the attackers

Bomb attack near RG Kar victim's home

Five BJP workers were injured after bike-borne miscreants allegedly hurled bombs at them late Wednesday near the Panihati home of the RG Kar rape-murder victim, whose mother won in the assembly elections. Three people have been arrested. Bomb attacks were also reported at a victory procession in Howrah. P 6

Guv dissolves assembly, Mamata refuses to quit

Kolkata: Bengal governor RN Ravi dissolved the assembly Thursday as the election process for a new legislature concluded, paving the way for installation of BJP's first govt in the state, **reports Debashis Konar**. Mamata Banerjee, protesting the results, maintained she wouldn't resign as CM.

The governor's decision coincided with an Election Commission move to lift the model code of conduct that had been in force since mid-March for the polls. The exception was Falta, where repolls will be held on May 21, followed by the results on May 24. Falta's April 29 polling was revoked over voting malpractices.

The governor said in a notification the assembly had been dissolved "from Thursday in accordance with constitutional provisions of Article 174(2)(b)". The tenure of the assembly ended and, as new MLAs were elected, the House had to be prorogued, an official said.

The new assembly will then be convened by the governor. The new MLAs will be administered oath soon.

The oath is normally administered by the senior-most MLA — called pro-tem Speaker — before the Speaker is appointed, the official said. The new session of the assembly will begin with the governor's speech.

'Will take 4 yrs': Ex-CJ quits SIR tribunal

Former chief justice of Calcutta HC TS Sivagnanam resigned from an SIR tribunal in Bengal on Thursday, citing personal reasons, and said it would take four years to clear all Kolkata appeals. He cleared 1,777 appeals over 22 days, rejecting none. P 8

DMK to prop up ADMK govt in TN? Stalin will take call

EPS Likely To Meet Guv With Claim Today

Julie.Mariappan
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: The unthinkable in Tamil Nadu politics turned probable on Thursday when DMK president M K Stalin reportedly told his party MLAs that AIADMK had been seeking his support to form the govt and checkmate TVK president C Joseph Vijay from becoming chief minister.

The legislators left the decision to Stalin, multiple sources told **TOI**. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, meanwhile, is understood to have sought governor R V Arlekar's appointment on Friday.

Stalin at a meeting of DMK's MLA-designates in Chennai

Hours before the DMK legislators' meeting, Stalin was closeted with leaders of VCK, CPI and CPM, whose six MLAs (two each) can help the TVK-Congress combine fill the five-seat gap to cross the 118-mark.

The topic of AIADMK outreach came up in this meeting, too, and the DMK allies told Stalin they would convey their decision on Friday.

Earlier on Thursday, governor R V Arlekar had told TVK that it was yet to show the support of majority of MLAs to form the govt. TVK is the single largest party with 108 legislators, while DMK has 59 and AIADMK 47 MLAs in the 234-member assembly.

▶Allies to discuss, P 6

Kerala CM battle now out on streets

The internal Congress battle for Kerala CM's post spilled on to the streets, with rival camps staging demonstrations and mounting flex-board offensives, besides pressing claims before the AICC observers. CLP authorised party chief Kharge to pick the next CM. P 6

'Cash rain' in Hry apartment as ED raids bizman's flat

The ED Thursday carried out searches in Punjab on close associates of Rajbir Ghuman, OSD to Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann. The accused threw bundles of over Rs 21 lakh currency notes from an apartment to avoid probe. The cash was later recovered by ED officials. The agency seized several incriminating documents suggesting interference of private individuals in govt functioning. P 9

India seeks Dhaka's help to send back illegal B'deshis

New Delhi: The govt on Thursday sought cooperation from Dhaka on the "core issue" of repatriation of illegal Bangladeshis in India.

Speaking on the issue for the first time after Bengal poll results, MEA called on Bangladesh to expedite pending nationality verification of close to 3,000 individuals for smooth repatriation of illegal immigrants. "This requires cooperation... Over 2,862 cases of nationality verification are pending with Bangladesh, some for five years," said MEA's Randhir Jaiswal. TNN

▶Will take action, P 16

B'desh seeks China's support in Teesta plan

Bangladesh has sought China's "involvement and support" for Teesta restoration project, a move that risks hitting India ties. INSIDE JACKET

Nitish's son Nishant among 32 new ministers in Bihar

Jai Narain Pandey & Manoj Chaurasia | TNN

Patna: Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary's first cabinet expansion Thursday marked the passing of a baton in more ways than one as JD(U) patriarch Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar transitioned from reluctant politician to minister within eight weeks.

He took oath with 31 others in the presence of PM Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh.

IANS

Nishant with his father and former Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

▶Needed in govt, P 6

New Iran agency to vet, tax ships passing Hormuz

Iran has created a govt agency to vet and tax vessels seeking passage through the crucial Strait of Hormuz, a shipping data company reported Thursday, as Tehran said it was reviewing the latest US proposals for ending the war. Top Iranian officials have said Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is playing a key role in overseeing negotiations with the US, but he remains in hiding. Trump also suspended an attempt by US military open a safe passage for commercial ships through the strait, saying the pause would allow more time to reach a peace agreement. SEE INSIDE JACKET

Most suicides in 2024 in Delhi, followed by B'luru

Khushi. Bhutan
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- 10,546 people in farm sector died by suicide in 2024
- For third straight year, Delhi leads in road deaths
- Crime against children' rise by 6% in 2024: NCRB
- Over 1.1L 2-wheeler riders, pedestrians killed | FLAP OPP

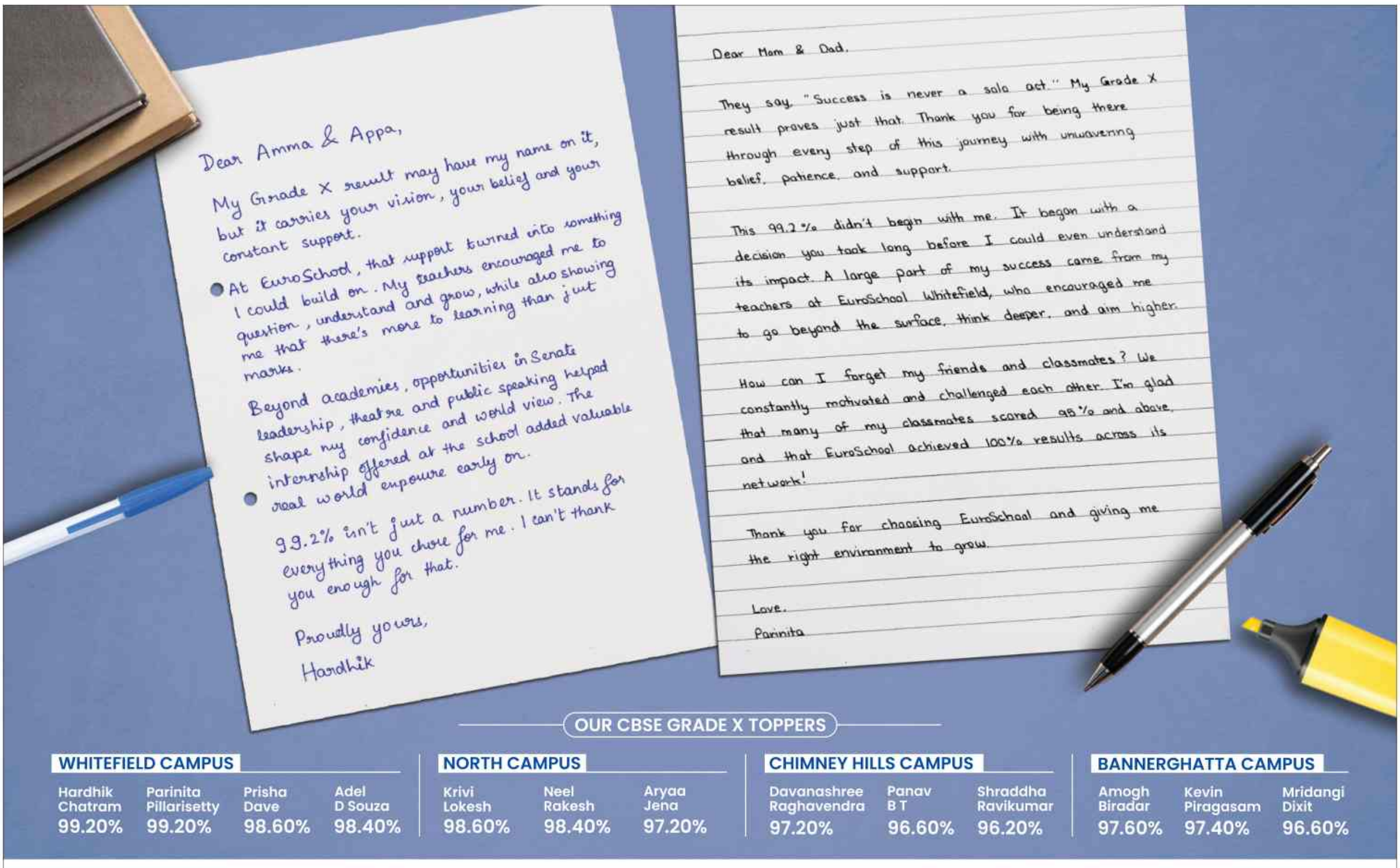
New Delhi: Delhi recorded 2,905 suicides in 2024, the highest among 53 Indian cities, data released by NCRB has revealed. Bengaluru reported the second highest number of suicides at 2,403, followed by Mumbai with 1,406 cases.

But the suicide rate in Delhi (based on projected figures of population) is 13.2 suicides per lakh people. For Bengaluru, it is 16.7 suicides per lakh people; Mumbai it is 11. In 2022, Delhi reported 3,417 deaths by suicide while in 2023, the figure stood at 3,131, showing a downward trend.

Of the total 2,905 deaths in 2024, men accounted for 2,078 (71.5%), women 825 (28.4%) and transgender persons two (0.1%). Family-related issues emerged as the leading cause behind the suicides, with 675 deaths, followed by marital problems (258 deaths) and unemployment (236 deaths).

A look at the occupational profile of the deceased revealed that 745 of them were unemployed.

▶Most are married, P 9



Bangalore Times

CAREERS

'Modelling industry needs to have a union'

Priyanka, Orlando team up for a survival thriller

'THE KANNADA FILM INDUSTRY NO LONGER HAS THE SAFETY NET IT ONCE DID'

P5

Buzzstop

MOHANLAL'S DRISHYAM 3 CLEARED WITH U/A 13+ CERTIFICATE

Nora Fatehi appears before NCW, apologises over Sarse Ninna row

'There was no intention to offend anybody'

Will Vijay be introduced as 'CM' in Jana Nayagan's title credits?

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3 BHK	1823-2171 SFT.	₹1.7CR-₹1.98CR*	₹1.64CR-₹1.9CR*
4 BHK	2742 SFT.	₹2.46CR*	₹2.37CR*
5 BHK FLOOR VILLA	3939 SFT.	₹3.51CR*	₹3.37CR*

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- Resort like ambience for luxury living

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- 25+ sports courts like badminton, squash, table tennis, basketball & pickleball
- Leisure zones with 5 amphitheatres, forest walkways, koi & lily ponds, themed gardens & more

★ LOCATION ★

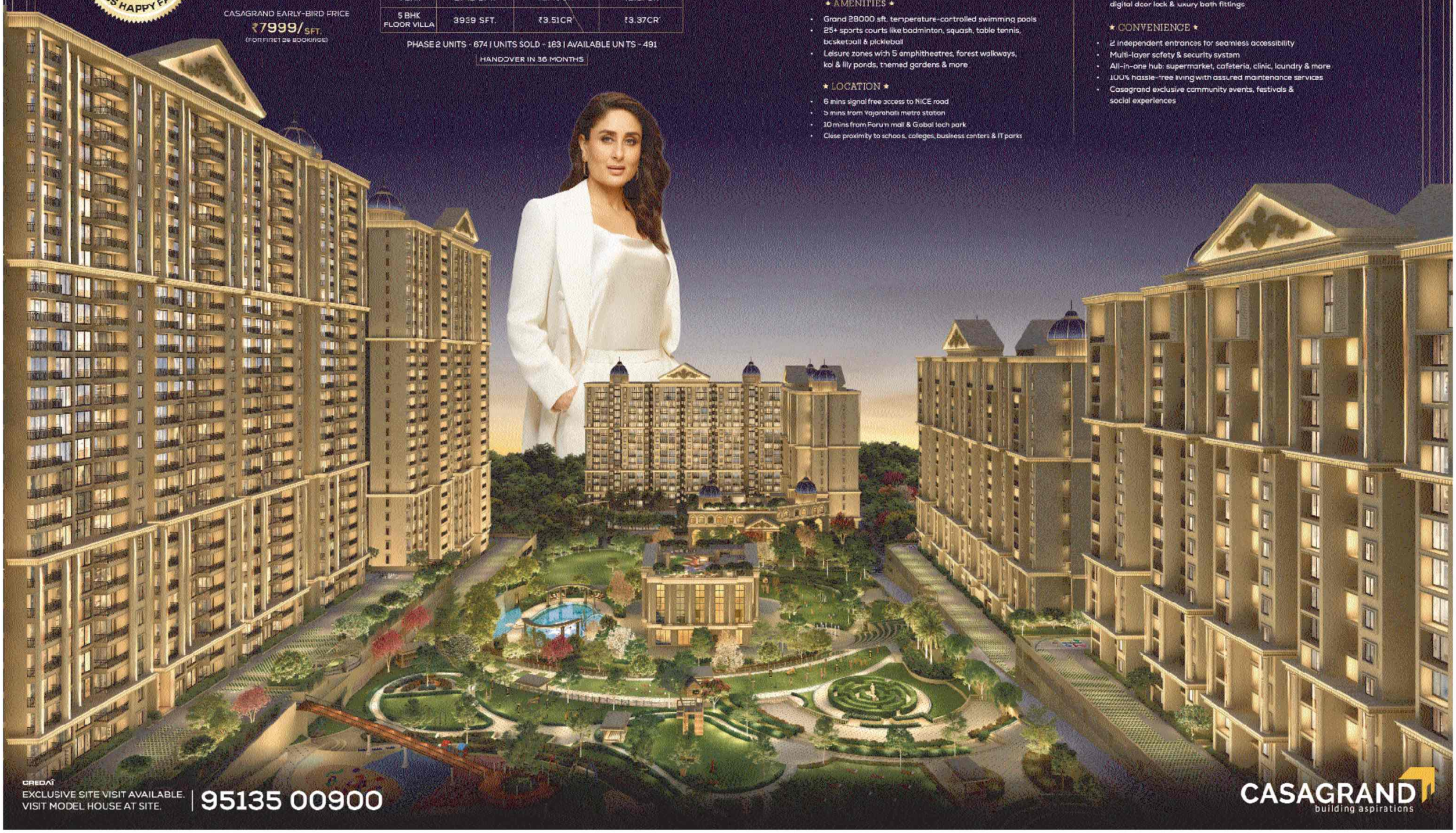
- 6 mins signal free access to NICE road
- 5 mins from Vajarahalli metro station
- 10 mins from Forum mall & Global tech park
- Close proximity to schools, colleges, business centers & IT parks

★ FLOOR PLAN AND SPECIFICATIONS ★

- Spacious homes for maximum functionality, comfort & privacy
- Huge ceiling heigh: windows for 2x brighter & breezier living
- Vaastu-compliant homes with no space wastage
- Convertible balcony in bedrooms offer 3x more ventilation & scenic views
- High-end specifications like Italian marble flooring, digital door lock & luxury bath fittings

★ CONVENIENCE ★

- 2 independent entrances for seamless accessibility
- Multi-layer safety & security system
- All-in-one hub: supermarket, cafeteria, clinic, laundry & more
- 100% hassle-free living with assured maintenance services
- Casagrand exclusive community events, festivals & social experiences



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Bengaluru To Get Transit-Oriented Development In 80-Hectare Project, Part Of Hyd Corridor

FUTURE IS TRANSIT-LED

Devanahalli set to host integrated hub

Suchith Kidiyoor & Sandeep Moudgal | TNN

Bengaluru: Imagine a huge area where residential, office, retail and entertainment spaces happily co-exist around major transit corridors. Bengaluru, which is never short on infrastructure woes, is set to welcome its transit-oriented development (TOD) near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Devanahalli. This is part of the Bengaluru-Hyderabad high-speed rail corridor.

The TOD model promises to ease — if not fully erase — image-hurting commuting bottlenecks. It's an integrated plan that promotes compact, high-density and mixed-use development centred around mass transit systems and reduces dependence on private vehicles.

The proposed development will integrate air and rail connectivity with other modes of transport, positioning Devanahalli as a multi-modal hub. For the project, 80 hectares of land is proposed to be acquired.

A senior official of the infrastructure development department said the state govt will facilitate land acquisition for the project. There will not be any overlap between the international airport and the proposed TOD. DPR, once ready, will bring more clarity, he added.

National High Speed Rail Corporation is executing the 607-km high-speed rail corridor project between Bengaluru and Hyderabad with 15 stations. RITES is preparing the final location survey and the DPR. Of the proposed corridor, 101km is in Karnataka. Three high-speed rail stations are planned in the state: At Alipura in Chikkaballapur district; at Devanahalli and Kodihalli, both in Bengaluru Rural district.

As per preliminary planning, the elevated corridor will run over National Highway 44 near Chikkasanne and pass via Bettakote Lake. The station is proposed on the northern side of the airport — nearly 2km from KIA, 9.5 km from railway station and 7.9 km from bus stand.

Sources said RITES has held multiple discussions with Bangalore International Airport and govt officials on the proposed alignment. The govt has appointed additional secretary (railways) of infrastructure development department as the nodal agency.

The cabinet had given in-principle approval for two corridors — Hyderabad-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Chennai.

The govt has approved land acquisition of around 1,757 hectares for the two centrally funded projects, with nearly 77% of the land earmarked for Chennai-Bengaluru corridor.

The stretch within Karnataka will cover about 100km from Kolar through Kodihalli, Whitefield and Byappanahalli. Around 90% of this section will be elevated, while the remaining will be underground, including stations at Whitefield and Byappanahalli. The Hyderabad-Bengaluru corridor spans a longer route. The Hyderabad-Bengaluru corridor runs via three districts of Karnataka.

According to preliminary plans, after Hindupur, the corridor runs 6km in Tumakuru district and 24km in Chikkaballapur district. A major portion — 70km — will pass through Bengaluru Rural district.

Transit-oriented development is proposed at Alipura, for which additional 80 hectares of land will be required.

The finance department has directed that all administrative costs related to land acquisition and shifting of state utilities be fully reimbursed by the implementing agency.

"We welcome the two high-speed rail links connecting Bengaluru with Chennai and Hyderabad, but we are also hoping that the centre will approve another HSRL connecting Pune with north Karnataka districts," industries minister M B Patil said.

In 2009, then BJP govt proposed a high-speed rail project from MG Road to KIA via Hebbal. The Rs 3,700-crore project was shelved due to land acquisition issues and high cost.

KIA, which saw 45 million flyers in the previous financial year, has been operational for 18 years, but no mass transit system links the airport yet. Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation has been providing Vayu Vajra services, but most passengers rely on private transport and taxi. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation has set a 2027 deadline for commissioning the 58km Blue Line project linking KIA and Silk Board.

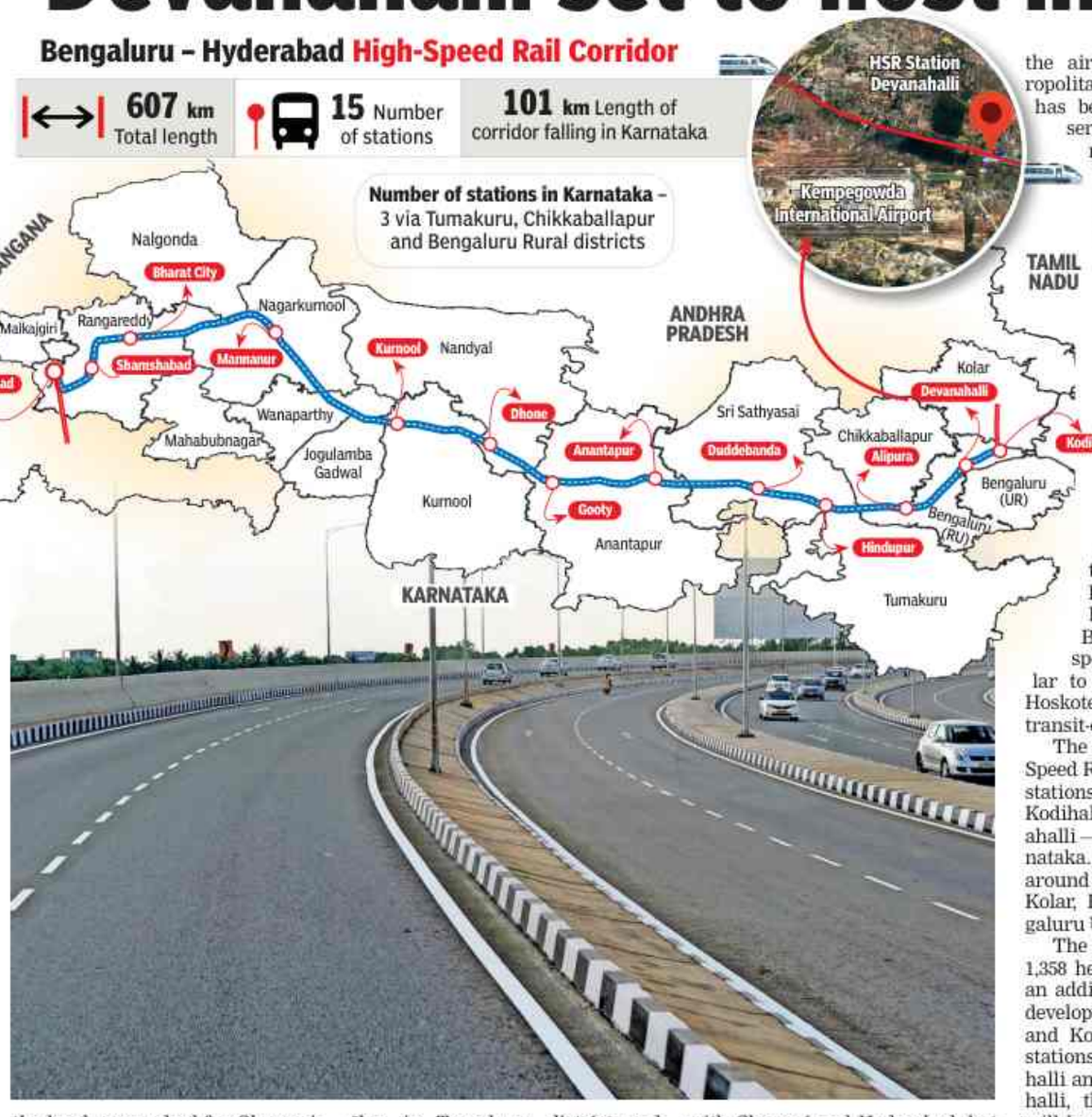
Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company has finalised alignment for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project, though tenders are yet to be floated.

Hoskote to emerge transit hub with TOD

Hoskote, on the eastern outskirts of the city, is set to emerge as a major transit hub as it will connect both Bengaluru–Hyderabad and Bengaluru–Chennai high-speed rail corridors. Similar to Devanahalli, Kodihalli in Hoskote is expected to develop as a transit-oriented hub.

The Bengaluru–Chennai High-Speed Rail corridor will have eight stations, of which four — at Kolar, Kodihalli, Whitefield and Byappanahalli — will be located within Karnataka. Of the total 306 km stretch, around 106 km will pass through Kolar, Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru Urban districts.

The corridor will require about 1,358 hectares of land, along with an additional 80 hectares each for developing TOD zones at Kodihalli and Kolar stations. Underground stations are planned at Byappanahalli and Whitefield. At Byappanahalli, the high-speed rail station will be integrated with the suburban rail and metro rail network.



BENGALURU TO HYDERABAD

- Transit-oriented development (TOD) planned at **Alipura and Devanahalli** stations for which **80 hectares of land required**
- Forest land required for project – **5 hectares**
- National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd **(NHSRCL)** will implement project
- **RITES** preparing final location survey and DPR for project

Existing connectivity and timing

- Vande Bharat Express – from Kacheguda to Yeshwanthpur - **8.15 hours**
- Air travel: **1.20 hour plus**
- Bus: **9 to 9.30 hours**
- Proposed Bullet train: **2 hours 8 minutes**

Station locations

- Alipura in Chikkaballapur district
- Devanahalli and Kodihalli near Hoskote Bengaluru Rural district
- Design speed – **350 kmph**
- Operational speed - **320 kmph**
- Land requirement for project within limits of Karnataka - **398 hectares**

Bengaluru - Chennai High Speed Corridor

306 Total length

8 Number of stations

In Karnataka

- Length - 100km

Four stations planned at

- Kolar
- Kodihalli
- Whitefield (underground)
- Byappanahalli (underground)
- Land required - **1,358 hectares**
- Additional **80 hectares required at Kodihalli and Kolar** for TOD

Woman, 40, robbed of ₹7.5L gold from market

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A shopping trip for a family wedding turned into a nightmare for a 40-year-old woman, who lost gold ornaments worth Rs 7.5 lakh and cash to a group of thieves in a crowded market area.

Chandrika from Mantralaya came to Bengaluru with her younger brother for their cousin's wedding. They visited Chickpet and surrounding shopping streets along with relatives on May 4 to buy clothes and wedding supplies. Aware of frequent thefts in the crowded market, her cousins suggested that she be careful with her ornaments. She removed the gold chains and earrings she was wearing and placed them, along with cash, inside a purse kept in her vanity bag.

When they were walking near Avenue Road, a group of men allegedly merged into the crowd around them, creating confusion before quietly dispersing.

Moments later, she checked her bag and was stunned to discover that her purse was missing. She later realised the bag was neatly cut open and the purse containing 55 grams of gold ornaments and Rs 20,000 in cash was stolen. City Market police registered a case of theft and are investigating.

Newlywed woman dies by suicide

A 40-year-old newlywed homemaker died by suicide in her Yeshwantpur residence. The deceased is M Sharada, and her parents have filed a police complaint of abetment to suicide against her husband Mahesh Kumar, a private company employee.

"Mahesh and Sharada were married eight months ago and they lived in Yeshwantpur. However, they frequently fought over trivial issues. Depressed over the fights, Sharada hanged herself late in the night and the incident came to light when Mahesh broke open the door," an officer said. TNN

₹20L gone in minutes: Woman falls prey to crypto wallet hack

Chaithanya.Swamy @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A 29-year-old woman's cryptocurrency savings vanished overnight after hackers allegedly breached her MetaMask wallet and siphoned off digital assets worth over $21,377 (around Rs 20 lakh) within hours.

According to the complaint filed by a Rikisha (name changed), a resident of Electronics City, she previously worked with a blockchain company till 2024. A part of her salary had been paid in cryptocurrency over the years. By April 28, 2026, her holdings in a MetaMask wallet, including WBTC, Ethereum, Arb and USDC, were valued at nearly $21,377.

According to Rishika, the theft occurred in the wee hours of April 28. Between 2.30am and 4.30am, a hacker allegedly transferred the entire balance from her wallet to another account. How her account was compromised is yet to be ascertained.

The fraud came to light when Rishika received transaction notifications on her phone. Alarmed, she immediately began tracing the movement of the stolen funds using blockchain tracking platforms such as Etherscan and Arbiscan. She found that the hacker had consolidated the stolen assets into accounts linked to the KuCoin cryptocurrency exchange.

Acting quickly, she contacted KuCoin's support team and requested an emergency freeze on the suspected accounts. The exchange reportedly froze the funds temporarily and informed her that, according to their regulations, funds can be frozen only for seven days and a law enforcement agency (LEA)'s e-form would be required to recover the assets. The KuCoin team confirmed it was a hacking incident and suggested that she recover the funds.

Rishika has now approached south-east cybercrime police, requesting authorities to coordinate with the exchange and trace the hacker. A case has been registered under Information Technology Act and BNS Sections 318 (cheating) and 319 (cheating by personation). The complainant provided details of her wallet address and transaction.

SAFETY TIPS

- Enable two-factor authentication on all crypto exchange accounts and related email accounts
- Use hardware wallet for storing large amounts of cryptocurrency instead of keeping funds in hot wallets
- Avoid clicking on unknown links, pop-ups or fake airdrop offers that may steal wallet credentials
- Regularly update wallet apps, browsers and antivirus software to protect against malware attacks
- Keep separate wallets for daily transactions and long-term savings
- Use strong, unique passwords for crypto-related accounts and avoid reusing passwords across platforms

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Man gropes neighbour, attacks spouse

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 35-year-old cab driver has been arrested on charges of groping a homemaker in her 30s, who is his neighbour and later attacking her husband with a machete for opposing him.

The incident took place at Rangarao Road in Shankarapuram near Chamrajpet recently.

Acting on a complaint filed by the woman, Shankarapuram police arrested the accused, Puttaraju. He is in judicial custody at Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara.

The homemaker was washing utensils in the backyard of her house when Puttaraju allegedly groped her. "When she raised an alarm, her husband, a security personnel, came out. Angered, he took a machete from his house and rushed towards Puttaraju," an officer said.

Puttaraju took a frying pan from the homemaker's utensil stock and hit the guard on his head, police said.

As he fell, Puttaraju snatched the machete and attacked him, causing multiple injuries. By then, neighbours rushed in and rescued the guard.

Thalassemia: Girl, 12, meets stranger who saved her life

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Twelve-year-old Sameeksha could barely hold back her tears as she walked up to the man she had waited years to meet – the stranger whose decision to register as a stem cell donor had ultimately saved her life.

At an emotional gathering in the city ahead of World Thalassemia Day, Sameeksha Thursday came face to face with 27-year-old Dilip Kumar, an IT professional hailing from Kolar who donated a stem cell to her. For the young girl, it was a meeting with the person who gave her a second chance at childhood. For Dilip, it was the first time he truly understood how one small decision could transform an entire family's future. As the two met, hugged and spoke quietly on stage, the room fell silent.

Diagnosed with thalassemia at a very young age, Sameeksha spent much of her childhood in hospitals, dependent on frequent blood transfusions just to survive. Doctors recalled how pale and fragile she appeared during the early years of treatment, warning that without a successful stem cell transplant, surviving beyond her 20s would have been unlikely. That was when she came under the radar of DKMS Foundation India, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the fight blood cancer and other disorders.

While regular blood transfusions remain a lifeline for many, doctors say a stem cell transplant is often the only cure. However, only a small percentage of patients are able to find a matched unrelated donor, and availability remains limited, particularly within Indian populations. "Patients from lower socio-economic backgrounds face substantial challenges in accessing high-end treatment due to the enormous costs involved," said Patrick Paul, executive chairman, DKMS Foundation India.

DEEP BONDING: Dilip Kumar and Sameeksha

Sameeksha too found herself in a difficult predicament. "When she first came to us, she was too young to understand what lay ahead. She was diagnosed with beta thalassemia," said Dr Siddesh Kalantri, stem cell transplant physician, Bloodcare Hematology Clinic & Diagnostic Centre. While finding a matching unrelated donor for a child is never guaranteed, her family was relieved when they got a call about the donor having been found. Sameeksha called the transplant her "second life" and said she can now attend school regularly, and live like other children her age.

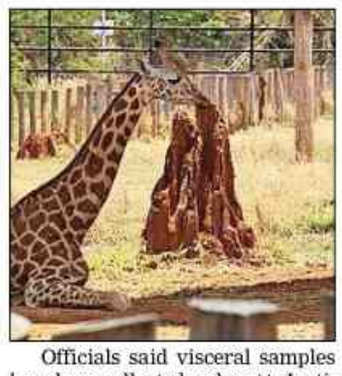
For her parents, the meeting Thursday was overwhelming. After years of fear, hospital visits and uncertainty, they said meeting Dilip felt like meeting the person who brought their daughter back to them. Fighting back tears, they described him as nothing less than a blessing. Dilip said the experience changed the way he looked at life, adding that the happiness of helping another person live is difficult to explain. "We may not be able to create life, but if we can help save one, why hold back?" he said.

— Nyasa Gupta

BBP giraffe Shivani dies

Bengaluru: In a setback to conservation efforts at Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP), Shivani — a young female giraffe that one of the zoo's star attractions — died on Thursday after battling a sudden intestinal complication despite days of intensive veterinary care.

According to BBP officials, Shivani was 3 years and 10 months old. "The giraffe stopped eating on May 3. A team of veterinarians closely monitored her condition and provided intensive treatment, but she failed to respond and died around 11am Thursday," an official said.



Officials said visceral samples have been collected and sent to Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals laboratory in Hebbal for analysis.

Shivani was brought to Bannerughatta from Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in 2024 after months of negotiations, at a time when the park was struggling to find a companion for its lone giraffe, Gauri. TNN

Wireless broadband fails, Varthur man wins ₹1lk

Vindhya.Pabolu @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Imagine paying over Rs 6,000 for a high-speed internet connection, only to be left with no internet and or refund. That's what happened to a Varthur resident who moved the 3rd Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Bangalore Urban, alleging deficiency in service. The commission ordered a full refund of the money with interest and a payment of Rs 5,000 in compensation.

CONSUMER IS KING

The saga began when Abhishek Kumar Singh purchased an internet subscription plan (1499-300 Mbps) on May 28, 2024. He paid Rs 6,306 in advance for a three-month plan, which included an installation charge of Rs 1,000.

However, a technician assigned by the firm failed to properly set up the modem and antenna, Singh said. Despite the Jio Air Fibre setup being initiated, the promised internet service remained unavailable, causing him inconvenience. He reported the issue to the firm, but received no tangible response from it.

Singh alleged that a lack of service and response from the service provider caused him mental distress and financial strain. He sent several emails requesting cancellation of the subscription and a refund of the amount paid. At one point, a technician visited his residence and acknowledged there was some issue with the router, assuring Singh that he would replace it — but no one returned to carry out the replacement. The company eventually informed Singh that a refund would be processed only if he returned all the materials, including the modem and other installation equipment.

Abhishek Kumar Singh purchased an internet subscription plan on May 28, 2024 by paying Rs 6,306 in advance. However, a technician assigned by the firm failed to properly set up the modem and antenna

Despite his willingness to comply, the refund never came. Feeling aggrieved, Singh filed a consumer complaint on Dec 9, 2024. In its defence, the firm claimed that its engineer had visited Singh's location, which was found not feasible for an Air Fibre connection, and that this had been duly communicated to Singh. It argued that the online booking was subject to technical feasibility as per its terms and conditions. Jio also contended that a service request had been attended to by its technician, the related issue was resolved, and an OTP was provided by Singh himself after the resolution, indicating his satisfaction. The firm maintained that its terms and conditions did not provide for a refund, and that Singh had agreed to them.

The commission observed that if Jio's own case was that the location was not feasible for an Air Fibre connection, then it should not have collected the fee in the first place. The commission rejected the company's no-refund clause outright, calling it a unilateral condition and noting the absence of Singh's signature on those terms and conditions. The commission, comprising its president Shivarama K and members Chandrashekar S Noola and Rekha Sayannavar, on April 22, ordered Jio to refund Rs 6,306 with interest at 9% from May 28, 2024, till realisation. It further directed it to pay Rs 5,000 for mental agony and litigation costs.

KSDL seeks ideas on anti-theft tech to protect sandalwood trees

Times News Network

With sandalwood theft continuing to be a major concern for growers in the state, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd has invited farmers, scientists and organisations to suggest advanced technologies and equipment to protect the precious trees.

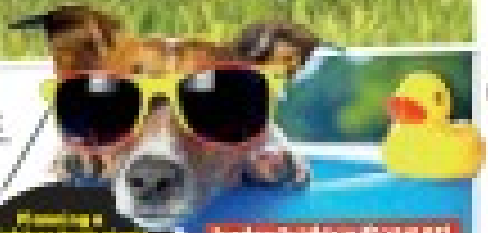
Announcing the initiative Thursday, industries minister MB Patil said individuals and organisations with innovative anti-theft solutions will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the technology before KSDL officials.

If the proposed systems are found effective and feasible, the matter will be placed before govt for consideration and implementation, he said, adding that KSDL will bear the cost of deploying technologies.

To encourage sandalwood cultivation in the state, four farmers who supply good quantity produce to KSDL will be honoured with awards on June 4. The minister said police personnel, forest officials and citizens who help crack sandalwood theft cases will be recognised and rewarded too.

The minister observed that farmers cultivating sandalwood trees on their lands have been facing increasing threats in recent years due to thefts. "Although stringent laws are in place to curb such activities, the number of cases resulting in convictions remains very low," Patil said.

How B'luru pet parents are making their weekends paw-some



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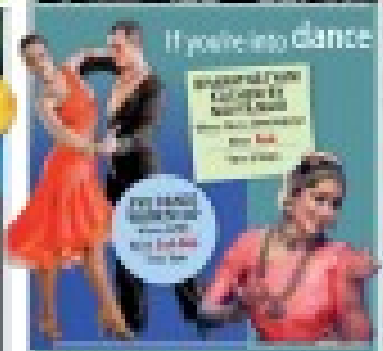

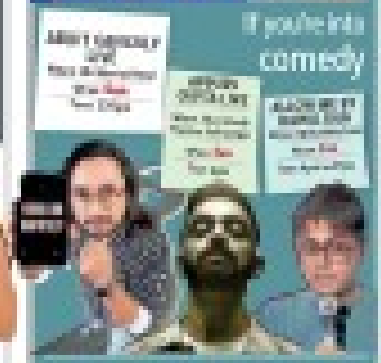

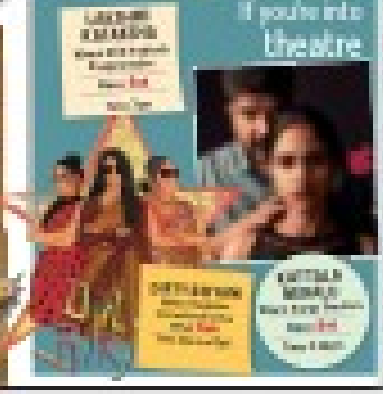

Hit-and-run exposes ₹30-lakh murder plot; five in custody

Woman, 55, Succumbs To Injuries

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A routine hit-and-run investigation has laid bare a cold-blooded murder conspiracy involving a "rowdy sheeter", a potato-chip-loving assassin and a Rs 30-lakh bounty.

North division police have cracked the case of 55-year-old Vijayalakshmi's death, revealing a meticulously planned heist that masqueraded as an accident.

The plot was hatched in the second week of April after Vijayalakshmi's local business associate, Chetan, discovered the single woman had Rs 30 lakh in cash at her Mahalakshmi Layout residence.

Seeking a cut of the fortune, Chetan allegedly leaked this information to Manjunath, alias Manja, a history-sheeter in Seshadripuram police station limits. Manja, in turn, recruited Pradeep, notorious in the underworld as "Chips" due to his obsession with the snack. Pradeep was already facing three murder charges at the time.

The gang allegedly decided that a direct home invasion was too risky. Instead, they scripted a staged accident to clear the house.

On the night of April 20, as Vijayalakshmi walked along Kurubarahalli Pipeline Road, a man named Rakesh rammed her with his sports motorbike. In a macabre twist of acting, Manja and his associates, who were tailing the victim, rushed to the spot pretending to be concerned citizens. They "rescued" the bleeding woman and shifted her to Victoria Hospital in an auto-rickshaw driven by their accomplice, Ravi Kumar.

While Vijayalakshmi fought for her life, Pradeep tried to sneak into her home to steal Rs 30 lakh. However, vigilant neighbours spotted the intruder and caught him. When Vijayalakshmi passed away on April 27, the traffic case was upgraded to murder.

Under the direction of DCP (north) BS Nemagouda, a special team detained Rakesh, who quickly buckled and confessed to the "intentional ramming."

While the gang waited for Vijayalakshmi to succumb to her injuries so they could loot the house, Vijayanagar traffic inspector GY Giriraj, upon reviewing CCTV footage of the "accident," noticed that Rakesh didn't swerve or brake — he steered directly into the victim.

"The geometry of the collision didn't match a lapse in judgment; it looked like a hit," a senior officer noted.

The subsequent arrests of Ravi, Chetan and Pradeep closed the loop on the conspiracy. As many as six people were arrested in the case. But ironically, the mastermind Manja, suffering from a pancreatic ailment, died in a private hospital on May 6, just weeks before his victim.

TOI

PLANNED LOOTING

- In the second week of April, Vijayalakshmi's local business associate, Chetan, discovers the single woman had Rs 30 lakh in cash at her Mahalakshmi Layout residence
- He leaks this information to Manjunath, alias Manja, a history-sheeter
- Manja recruits Pradeep, known in the underworld as "Chips", with three murder charges at the time
- Gang scripts staged accident to clear the house and steal money
- On night of April 20, a man named Rakesh rams Vijayalakshmi with his motorbike on Kurubarahalli Pipeline Road
- Manja and his associates, who were tailing the victim, rush to the spot, pretending to be concerned citizens, and shift her to Victoria Hospital
- Pradeep then tries to sneak into her house
- Vigilant neighbours spot intruder and catch him
- Rakesh gets detained and confesses to the intentional ramming
- All accused, except Manja who died in hospital due to a pancreatic ailment, in custody

STAGED ACCIDENT: Rakesh rammed his bike into victim Vijayalakshmi while she was walking along Kurubarahalli Pipeline Road on April 20

Air Force officer, his wife allege assault by auto driver & group

Bengaluru: A shopping trip allegedly turned traumatic for an Indian Air Force (IAF) officer and his wife who claimed they were assaulted by an auto driver, his passenger and a group of men in a road-rage incident near Jalahalli Cross.

ROAD RAGE

The officer told police he and his wife were returning from a showroom on Tumakuru Road on the night of May 2. The couple had parked their vehicle at a distance and were walking back when the incident unfolded. They requested an auto driver to make way for pedestrians, and it angered a passenger inside the auto. The argument escalated, with both the auto driver and the passenger allegedly abusing and threatening the couple.

Even as they tried to walk away, one of the men reportedly grabbed a tree branch and allegedly assaulted him. Soon, a group of 6-7 men allegedly joined in and assaulted the officer, while his wife was also pushed and hit. The attackers allegedly fled in the auto when the officer attempted to call for help. Bagalagunte police registered a case. TNN

Traffic at snail's pace: Work at Murugeshpalya jn begins

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Bengaluru: Motorists using the busy Murugeshpalya junction on Old Airport Road are likely to face severe traffic congestion over the next six months as work on the long-pending Wind Tunnel Road underpass has finally commenced. The project, aimed at easing one of east Bengaluru's most notorious bottlenecks, is expected to eventually make the stretch signal-free and improve traffic towards HAL, Marathahalli and the city centre.

₹19-CR UNDERPASS

The Rs 19-crore underpass project kicked off this week after almost a decade's delay, with one side of the carriageway already blocked for construction.

Traffic police said congestion has already increased during peak hours and warned the situation could worsen once schools reopen and during heavy rain.

VVIP movement adds to congestion

Traffic police said the stretch remains highly sensitive due to frequent VVIP movement linked to the nearby HAL Old Airport. "On for the work to be completed as quickly as possible," the officer added.

Deadline of 180 days

Engineers associated with the project said the official completion timeline remains about 180 days, including the monsoon period.

They expect the underpass to be ready for public use by Nov if work progresses as planned.

During a recent inspection, GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao reportedly directed contractors to adopt faster construction methods and explore the use of advanced technology to reduce delays.

He also urged officials to complete the project within three months, if possible.

According to project engineers, the construction will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, the box structure towards Manipal Hospital side will be installed while traffic continues on the opposite carriageway. In the second phase, work on HAL-bound side will begin.

The underpass is planned as a six-lane structure with a width of 7.5 metres, along with two service road lanes on either side. Entry and exit ramps on both ends will measure about 170 metres each, while the underpass boxes themselves will be nearly 50 metres long.

Engineers said most of the prefabricated box structures are already ready, and a retaining wall on the Isro side has been completed. However, the major challenge currently lies in constructing the retaining wall on the opposite side and shifting underground utilities.

"The major task now is earthwork and utility shifting. Once that is completed, the remaining process is relatively easy because the underpass boxes are ready and only need to be placed," an engineer said.

TOI

MEN AT WORK: The Wind Tunnel Road underpass project finally kicked off after a decade's delay

Happy Streets at Nandini Layout one last time

Bengaluru: The final edition of Happy Streets by **TOI** at Nandini Layout is set to take place this Sunday, marking the close of a spirited run that has brought residents together over the past weeks. The stretch near Oxford Secondary School will once again transform into a lively, vehicle-free zone, inviting the community for one last morning of activity and celebration.

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets — OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

The line-up reflects a rich mix of wellness, rhythm and performance opening with a guided meditation session by Heartfulness, followed by yoga and pranayama by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga. The pace then shifts with an energetic zumba session by Swingers Dance Inc.

A quiz and giveaways by presenting sponsor Bhima Jewellers will culminate with the announcement of lucky draw winners. Music and talent take the spotlight with Mic & Melody and World Music Conservatory, while From Mug to Mike hosts engaging singing sessions.

Dance performances by Jagan Jagz's Dance Studio and Trilochana Dance and Fitness Studio will add visual flair, complemented by martial arts showcase by Aryan Martial Arts. QShala will engage attendees with quiz-based activities. TNN

KEA urges depts to upload seat matrices by next week

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Bengaluru: Miffed by the practice of various departments sending seat matrices late, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has written to them to upload the matrices for Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling by the second week of May.

KEA holds CET counselling for multiple courses, spanning engineering, agriculture, nursing and pharma. Mostly, counselling for all these courses is held in tandem so that students can make informed choices.

In the CET online seat-selection process, they opt for courses in the order of their preferences.

KEA has sent letters to the higher education department, directorate of medical education, health and family welfare and universities. "The seat matrix of courses should be uploaded on KEA seat matrix portal within the second week of May, a certified copy should be given to the authority and a govt order containing fee information should be issued and a nodal officer should be appointed for coordination," the letters said. "All the above measures will require a minimum of 20 days after the receipt of the seat matrix. In addition, all rounds of seat allocation conducted by the authority will have to be conducted as per the schedule of AICTE/competent authority," KEA said.

Some nursing seats were added after the third round of counselling last year, forcing KEA to start the process again.

Counselling for various professional courses

- Engineering and technology
- Architecture
- Bachelor of yoga and naturopathy (BNYS)
- BSc (nursing)
- Bachelor of veterinary science and animal husbandry (BVSc & AH)
- Farm science courses [Agriculture, sericulture, horticulture, forestry, community science, biotechnology, agricultural engineering, food technology, fisheries, agriculture business management]
- B pharma, Pharma (lateral Entry)
- Medical
- Dental
- Ayush

> I recently held a meeting with stakeholders and asked them to speed up the process. The university and allied health council have been advised to send the matrices on time positively
> **Mohammed Mohsin** | ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, MEDICAL EDUCATION

1.3L to take ComedK tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A total of 1,30,620 candidates from across India will appear for ComedK (Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka) UG entrance test, scheduled for May 9.

As per ComedK, as many as 43,069 applicants are from Karnataka. The exam holds the key to UG courses in engineering in private colleges in Karnataka and select pan-India member -universities.

The computer-based examination will be held in 171 cities and 303 test centres in two sessions — between 9am and noon, and between 2pm and 5pm.

Since this is an all-India-level exam, the dress code for ComedK 2026 exam will be in line with what is advocated by respective state govts, ComedK said.

Exam schedule released by VTU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) released the examination schedule for UG and PG courses.

The exams will begin in the second week of June and conclude in the third week of Aug. Separate schedules were prepared for students under the new and old curricula. VTU instructed that affiliated colleges should display the schedule on notice boards to bring it to the attention of students.

After 7 deaths, Bowring wall yet to be repaired

Sanjay.Murty
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Bengaluru: A week after seven people were killed when a portion of the boundary wall of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital collapsed, the remaining wall still stands untouched. Even traffic has been allowed to ply along it, while debris of the fallen portion still lies where it fell. Bags of sand have been placed at the collapsed section to act as a temporary retaining structure.

The govt constituted an inquiry committee, headed by a retired PWD chief engineer, and had sought a report by Thursday. However, according to sources, the report will be delayed and is now expected by Monday.

The Lokayukta also took suo motu cognisance of the case and formed a special team, which visited the spot earlier this week.

Washing its hands of any responsibility, Bengaluru Central City Corporation officials said it is the hospital's job to examine, repair and rebuild the wall. The 25-metre-long stretch of the compound wall that collapsed last week was where the hospital's postmortem centre and morgue are located.

Even as a few barricades have been placed along the damaged portion, the footpath next to the remaining section of the wall is still accessible to pedestrians, leaving them at risk.

Additionally, the city's central corporation has written to the director of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, urging institute officials to order engineers to demolish the dilapidated wall and rebuild it.

According to the central corporation's chief engineer, Vijay Kumar Haridas, such walls are demolished only in "extreme" cases. "Mostly it is building owners that attend to dilapidated walls," he said.

Haridas said a suspension notice had been issued to the executive engineer of the corporation's Shivajinagar division.

TOI

TALKING TO BRICK WALL? Debris of the fallen portion of the wall of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital still lies where it fell

₹1.6-cr revamp of neglected Hennur biopark takes off; residents relieved

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Once envisioned as a vibrant green lung space in north Bengaluru, Hennur Lake Biodiversity Park was grappling with poor maintenance, broken infrastructure and visible neglect for a long time. Now, much to relief of regular walkers, the revamp work worth Rs 1.6 crore hit the ground finally.

Inaugurated in 2016 on a reclaimed lakebed, the park was designed with native and medicinal plants, walking trails and a central lake supporting birds and some wildlife. However, despite being a designated biodiversity park, many trees and plant species lack identification boards, and several appear unmaintained. Basic amenities had also deteriorated — benches are either broken or missing, and the absence of sufficient dustbins had led to garbage accumulation across the under-maintained park.

All six washrooms within the park were unusable, with broken doors, damaged commodes and unhygienic conditions, making them inaccessible. Recreational areas, including the children's play zone, had also seen visible wear and tear. At the heart of the park lies a scenic lake, once its key attraction. Today, it is covered with thick green algae and filled with waste. Adding to the problem is an unfenced stretch along one side of the park, making it vulnerable to dumping of garbage from outside.

A regular walker told **TOI**, "This is one of the city's good lung spaces amid a heavy traffic zone. It needs revamping to attract more walkers and families. The kids' play area is in the most neglected state as of now. I see a variety of trees which are not familiar to people, and if they are all named, that will be a great learning experience."

Karnataka forest department officials acknowledged the need for urgent intervention. A detailed project report was prepared, and around Rs 1.6 crore allocated to revamp the park — marking the first major upgrade since its inauguration. The project aims not only to restore basic amenities but also to enhance the park's ecological and recreational value.

Ravindra Kumar, DCF (urban), said, "Funds from our department have been released and we started work. We also have some CSR funds pooling in for the revamp."

Chethan Shivakumar

DILAPIDATED CONDITION: Basic amenities in the park like benches are either broken or missing, and the absence of sufficient dustbins has led to garbage accumulation

REMODELLING PLANS

- Rejuvenation of lake using treated water and floating wetland systems
- Repair and upgrade of existing gazebos and structures
- Installation of proper fencing to prevent garbage dumping and better waste management
- Restoration and repair of all washrooms
- New walking paths and improved pathways
- Development of amphitheatre
- Upgraded children's play area and theme-based play zones
- Installation of outdoor gym and recreational facilities
- Introduction of butterfly park, bamboo groves and herbal gardens
- Addition of tree signages, information boards and outdoor exhibits

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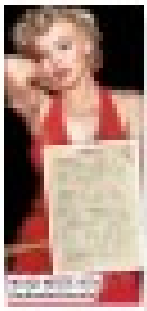

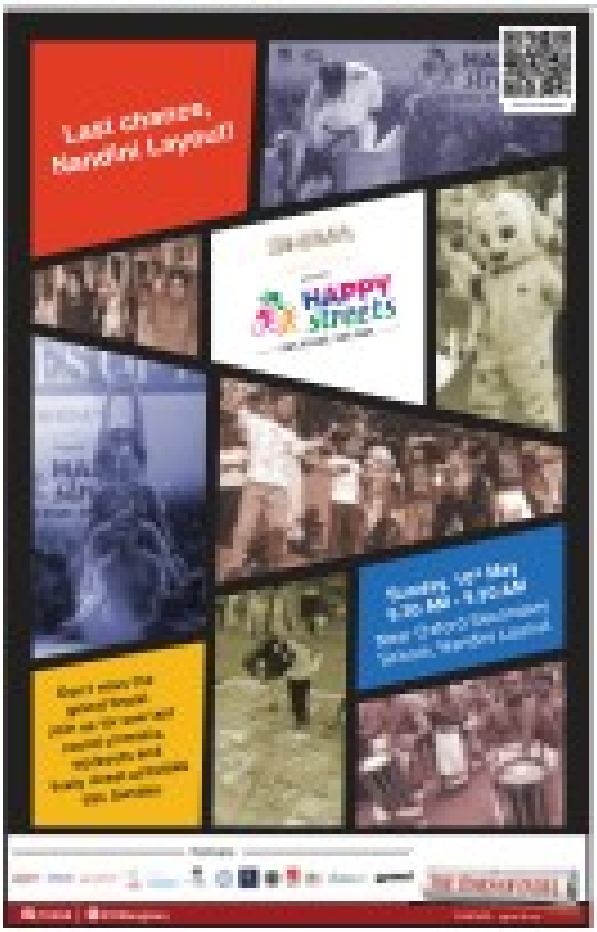

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"The proper definition of a man is an animal that writes letters." - Lewis Carroll

Banksy adds another mystery to London streets

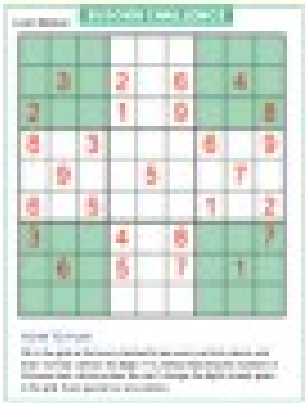
Artwork or child protection?

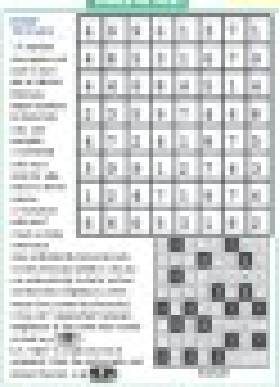
Letters over texts: Pen pals make a comeback globally

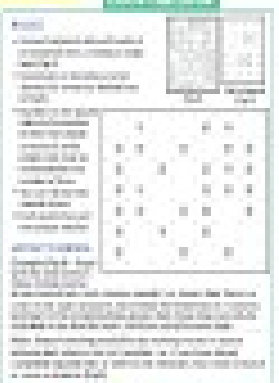
The mango goes to the Met Gala

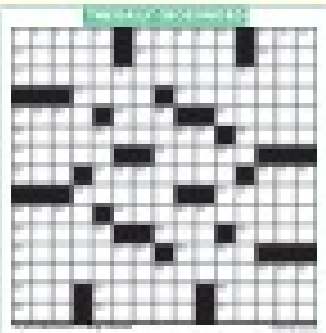
POV

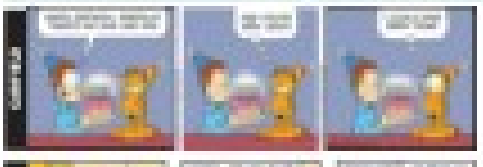
LEISURE

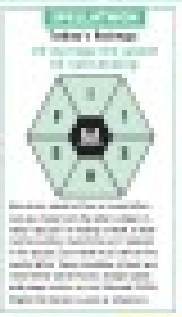


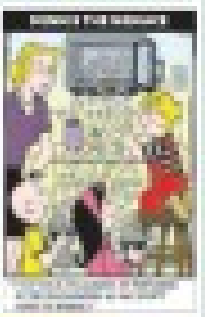


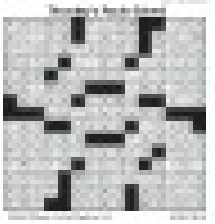


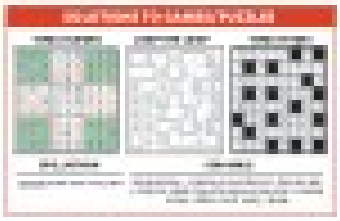












GET NOTICED

FIGHTING: TD Rajegowda with a copy of the complaint on Thursday

Rajegowda seeks EC investigation

Chikkamagaluru: Dethroned Sringeri MLA TD Rajegowda has urged the Election Commission to investigate alleged "tampering of postal ballots" during last week's recount process.

A day after BJP's DN Jeevaraj took oath as Sringeri MLA, Rajegowda, Thursday, submitted a memorandum to Karnataka chief electoral officer V Anbukumar, alleging ballots treated as valid during the original counting on May 13, 2023, were declared invalid during the recount.

Rajegowda had won the 2023 assembly election by 201 votes against Jeevaraj. But after the recount ordered by the Karnataka high court, the original result was overturned and Jeevaraj was declared winner.

"I'm ready to face the consequences, but the truth must be revealed," Rajegowda told **TOI**. "Such criminal conspiracy must not be repeated. The guilty must be punished."

KPCC convener Sudhir Kumar Murolli, Rajegowda's election agent, also alleged tampering and filed a police complaint against Jeevaraj, former deputy commissioner KN Ramesh and returning officer Vedamurthy. However, the high court stayed the FIR till June 3.

Jeevaraj said his agents had sought a recount in 2023, but officials ignored the request. "We were clear mistakes were made," he said. TNN

BJP MLA appears in court

Following an arrest warrant issued by the special court for elected representatives, BP Harish, BJP MLA from Harihar, Thursday appeared before the court. His counsel applied for the non-bailable warrant to be recalled. The court directed them to deposit Rs 1,000 with district legal services authority before adjourning the caste abuse case to May 27. TNN

Karnataka to seek SC nod to continue MGNREGA works

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state cabinet Thursday decided to approach the Supreme Court seeking permission to continue implementation of schemes under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and prepare a plan for the current fiscal.

The govt had earmarked Rs 2,475 crore for the programme, even as it flagged the absence of clarity from the Centre after the scheme was scrapped on March 31.

Law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil said the decision to move court follows the Centre's delay in issuing a notification for the new scheme, Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB Gram G), which is expected to replace the existing framework. He said the only communication received so far is a circular allowing states to continue ongoing work. He said the Centre has only sought information on pending work but has not outlined funding or operational arrangements for the transition period.

Patil said the delay in issuing a formal notification on VB Gram G affects the constitutional role of states in ensuring rural employment, and the absence of a notified alternative has created an administrative gap.

"In the interests of the public, MGNREGA is necessary, and we will request the court to allow us to frame an action plan," Patil said.

ANI

BOUQUETS: Chief minister Siddaramaiah was felicitated by supporters during a visit to Mysuru on Thursday

SEP implementation

The cabinet also approved the formation of a sub-committee to implement recommendations of the State Education Policy (SEP) Commission. The panel, chaired by Sukhadeo Thorat, had previously presented its report, which was discussed after being circulated among ministers on April 30.

The cabinet also cleared several infrastructure and tourism-related projects under the PPP model. These include the immersive room and digital guide initiative at Mysuru zoo and Bannerghatta Biological Park (BPP), with allocations of Rs 44.6 crore and Rs 35.2 crore respectively.

The immersive room project was described as a digital facility using 360-degree projection, audio and lighting systems to create a fully simulated environment experience for visitors. The govt also approved Rs 144 crore for a public aquarium at BBP.

OTHER DECISIONS

- ₹180 crore to expand Sri Jayadeva Institute, Mysuru, from 400 to 600 beds
- ₹24 crore to develop Sri Ghati Subramanya Temple, Bengaluru
- ₹604 crore for Kukke Subrahmanya Temple master plan
- ₹66 crore for 20.7km four-lane road in Bangarapet
- ₹132.5 crore to supply drinking water from Basavasagar Dam to Hutti Gold Mine township
- ₹22 crore to convert Dharwad Regional Science Centre planetarium from 3D to 2D

Belagavi may host monsoon session

J Abbas Mulla | TNN

Hubballi: Karnataka may, for the first time, hold the monsoon session of the state legislature in Belagavi, breaking from the two-decade-old practice of convening only the winter session there.

Sources say CM Siddaramaiah discussed the proposal with the assembly speaker and council chairman, and a 10-day session may be scheduled in the second week of June if arrangements are finalised.

Belagavi, considered the informal second capital, has hosted the winter session since 2006. Suvarna Soudha has been the venue for the annual Nov-Dec sitting since its inauguration in 2012. Prior to that, the legislature met at KLE Institute.

CMO officials said Siddaramaiah wants the session to be more productive with debates focusing on north Karnataka's development and farmers' issues. But sources say the proposed change is being considered for two major reasons: Ferocious protests, especially by farmers, and the blow to tourism.

Protests have often marred proceedings and have forced the govt to deploy a large police force. "In June, farmers will be engaged in sowing activities, which may reduce disruptions," a senior official said.

The winter session also affects tourism. Finding accommodation in Belagavi during the peak travel season is difficult. "Many tourists arrive, but hotel rooms remain booked for the session. While the govt loses revenue, getting accommodation for MLAs is also difficult," the official said.

Speaker UT Khader said a final decision rests with the Cabinet. "Our job is to conduct the session wherever the govt decides. The issue was discussed but a final decision is yet to be taken," Khader said. Basavaraj Horatti, council chairman, said discussions on the proposal were still informal.

BJP member in judicial custody

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kalaburagi: Tension prevailed in a tanda in Wadi after Manikanta Rathod, BJP functionary, was taken into preventive custody and later remanded in judicial custody following unrest linked to the death of a boy who had fallen into a pit.

The boy's death Wednesday in Konchur Diggi tanda, Ladlapur gram panchayat, triggered protests by locals, who demanded compensation for the bereaved family. Officials say assurances were given, but residents refused to proceed with the funeral until compensation was paid, setting up a tent and continuing their protest.

Police said Rathod, who was present at the protest, was taken into preventive custody around 12.30am Thursday. As he was being taken away, some locals allegedly attempted to block the police vehicle leading to a brief confrontation.

Rathod was subsequently taken to Kalaburagi and produced before a court, which remanded him in judicial custody.

Unlike TN & Andhra, K'taka stays resistant to cinema-driven politics

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
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Bengaluru: Film star-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay is on the cusp of creating history in Tamil Nadu, with his party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as a major force and unsettling the state's established political order.

Vijay's rapid rise has drawn comparisons with matinee idol MG Ramachandran, who split from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and became chief minister in 1977. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh too has a long history of cinema influencing politics, from NT Rama Rao founding the Telugu Desam Party to Pawan Kalyan emerging as deputy CM in 2024 through the Jana Sena Party. Actors such as Chiranjeevi and Mohan Babu too leveraged strong fan bases to build political careers.

But Karnataka is an exception. Despite growing national visibility of Kannada cinema, the state has largely maintained a distinction between cinematic popularity and political leadership.

MB Maramkal, political strategist, said the political culture in Karnataka differs from meghbouring states, where cinema historically aligned with linguistic and social movements. In Karnataka, he said, voters have generally separated cinematic popularity from political credibility, limiting the electoral success of film personalities. "Also, unlike Vijay, most actors enter politics after their stardom fades which limits their success," he said.

The biggest example remains legendary actor Rajkumar, who stayed away from electoral politics despite immense popularity and influence. His support for the Gokak agitation highlighted the ability of cinema personalities to mobilise public sentiment without formally entering politics. Members of the Rajkumar family, including Shivarajkumar and late actor Puneeth Rajkumar, also avoided direct political participation. Shivarajkumar supported his wife Geetha during an unsuccessful poll contest but stayed out of active politics.

Current Kannada stars such as Yash, Sudeep and Darshan too have largely stayed away from electoral politics, though they have influenced voters by campaigning for parties and political associates.

Only a handful successfully converted screen fame into electoral success. Late actor MH Ambareesh, a Vokkaliga, served as Union minister and state minister, emerging as one of Kannada cinema's strongest political figures. Anant Nag combined cinema and public service, serving as minister in the JH Patel govt. Others who held ministerial positions include CP Yogeshwara, BC Patil, Kumar Bangarappa and Madhu Bangarappa (current education minister).

Nikhil Kumaraswamy, JD(S) youth wing president and son of Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, entered politics after a brief film career but is yet to win an election.

Actors who served as MPs or MLCs include Jaggesh, Shashi Kumar, Tara Anuradha, Mukhyamantri Chandru and Srinath. Among women, Umashree and Jayamala served as ministers, while former Mandya MPs Sumalatha Ambareesh and Ramya made brief political appearances.

Actor Upendra floated the Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janata Party and later the Uttama Prajaakeeya Party, generating considerable attention but little electoral success.

MN Patil, another analyst, said: "Cinema fan culture in Tamil Nadu and Andhra-Telangana is deeply organised and often overlaps with politics. Karnataka has not seen that scale, though Kannada cinema has often reflected social and political themes. Its growing pan-India reach has expanded actors' visibility and soft power, influencing public discourse more than direct electoral politics."

NEWLY ELECTED TVK LEGISLATOR HAS KANNADA ROOTS

A family that migrated from Karnataka's Turuvekere taluk in Tumakuru district to Tamil Nadu decades ago has entered the state's political spotlight, with N Sunil Anand winning the Mettupalayam assembly seat on a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) ticket. Anand secured 75,664 votes and defeated DMK candidate Kavitha Kalyanasundaram by a margin of 7,768 votes to secure his assembly seat.

The family originally hails from Hodakeghatta in Dabbeghatta hobli, Turuvekere taluk. His grandfather, Ningegowda, migrated to Tamil Nadu and settled in Mettupalayam, establishing the family's base in the region. Sunil's father, HN Nagaraju, continued the family's business while retaining links with their native village in Tumakuru.

Besides politics, Anand is an entrepreneur with interests in star hotels, tea plantations and other businesses in Tamil Nadu. He is also engaged in social service activities. Incidentally, his maternal grandfather Lingappa served as mayor of Mysuru. Mayor Lingappa Circle near Vontikoppal is named after him.

IN SPOTLIGHT: N Sunil Anand with TVK party chief Vijay

> Unlike Tamil Nadu and Andhra, Karnataka audiences have traditionally viewed film stars and politicians differently. The dominance of two national parties — Congress and BJP — and the presence of JD(S), a breakaway faction of a national party, have further limited space for a regional alternative. Even Rajkumar, despite being seen as a strong cultural figure, may not have succeeded in launching a party or becoming chief minister had he entered politics. Attempts by both film personalities and regional representatives to form new parties have largely failed
>
> **Mukhyamantri Chandru** | ACTOR AND FORMER MLC

Youth found with minor attacked, eight booked

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tension prevailed in parts of Koppal city after a minor girl was found in the company of a youngster from another community, leading to an alleged assault on him and registration of an FIR against Bajrang Dal activists, police said.

KOPPAL ON ALERT

According to cops, the incident came to light after the minor was reportedly seen with the youth at a coffee shop in the town. Members of Bajrang Dal are said to have questioned the youngster over his alleged association with the girl.

The situation escalated when the youth was allegedly taken to another location and assaulted. He was later admitted to the district hospital, where a medico-legal casewas registered.

Superintendent of police Ram L Arasiddi said based on a complaint filed by the youngster, a case has been registered against eight people.

The incident triggered protests by members of Hindu organisations, who gathered outside the town police station and demanded action against the youth under provisions of Pocso Act, citing that the girl is a minor. A large crowd assembled outside the police station for some time, prompting senior police officers to rush to the spot. Additional police personnel were deployed as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order.

Politics reflects social realities, says RSS chief

▶ Continued from page 1

He said politicians exploit caste because society continues to attach importance to it. "Their legitimate aim is to get votes. If they cannot get votes through their work, they will seek votes through caste," he added.

According to **Bhagwat**, politics reflects social realities and political change will come only when society rises above caste divisions. He said politicians alone should not be blamed for such divisions.

On reforms such as UCC and population-related laws, he said "policies can only succeed with public cooperation".

Referring to population control measures during the Emergency, from 1975-1977, he said forceful implementation had led to public resentment and political backlash in the country.

Bhagwat said the govt must plan for the next 100 years, stressing that India's immediate concern is not just population control, but striking a demographic balance, as the country's youthful profile will gradually give way to a larger elderly population.

Responding to a question from the audience, Bhagwat said India's reported Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 should be viewed carefully and stressed awareness-based, non-discriminatory policy implementation.

On UCC, Bhagwat said gradual implementation was already visible in some states such as Uttarakhand and expressed confidence that it could be rolled out nationwide over time. "It is not decided by one person, but by 142 crore people," he added.

He said inter-caste unity and marriages should be encouraged, warning that social discord could prove detrimental to society.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TELANGANA HOUSING BOARD

TELANGANA HOUSING BOARD PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO OWN ENCUMBRANCE FREE OPEN PLOTS/LAND PARCELS

e-AUCTION Notification No.01/CE/TGHB/e-Auction/Land Parcels/Plots/2026, Dated: 07.05.2026

The Telangana Housing Board/Government invites Bids for sale of certain open plots/land parcels, located at Raviryal (V), Maheshwaram (M), Ranga Reddy (D), KPHB Colony, Kukatpally (M), Medchal-Malkajgiri (District and Chintal (V), Qutbullapur (M), Medchal Malkajgiri District on "As is where is Basis" through e-Auction.
The details of open plots/land parcels proposed for e-Auction is as follows:

e-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Location	Extent of Plots	Land Use	Pre Bid Meeting @ TGHB Meeting Hall, 1st Floor, Gruhakalpa, M.J.Road, Nampally, Hyderabad	Minimum Upset Price per Sq.Yd in Rs	Minimum Bid Increment per Sq.Yd in Rs	Pre-Bid EMD Amount in Crores	Last date for Registration & Pre-Bid EMD payment in MSTC portal	Date of e-Auction	Geo Location
1.	Plot No.1 at Raviryal (V), Maheshwaram (M), Ranga Reddy District	1,116.00 Sq.Yds	General Development Promotional Zone (GDPZ)	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	26,000/-	2,500/-	0.25	27.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	28.05.2026 @ 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM	
2.	Plot No.2 at Raviryal (V), Maheshwaram (M), Ranga Reddy District	3,630.00 Sq.Yds	General Development Promotional Zone (GDPZ)	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	40,000/-	2,500/-	0.50	27.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	28.05.2026 @ 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM	
3.	Plot No.3 at Raviryal (V), Maheshwaram (M), Ranga Reddy District	5,953.00 Sq.Yds	General Development Promotional Zone (GDPZ)	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	40,000/-	2,500/-	0.50	27.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	28.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	
4.	Plot No.4 at Raviryal (V), Maheshwaram (M), Ranga Reddy District	13,504.00 Sq.Yds	General Development Promotional Zone (GDPZ)	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	40,000/-	2,500/-	1.00	27.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	28.05.2026 @ 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM	
5.	Land Parcel under Phase-I & II at KPHB Colony, Kukatpally, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	5,898.00 Sq.Yds	Residential	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	90,000/-	2,500/-	0.50	28.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	29.05.2026 @ 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM	
6.	Plot No.2 at KPHB Colony, Kukatpally, Medchal-Malkajgiri District.	2,420.00 Sq.Yds	Residential	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	1,00,000/-	2,500/-	0.50	28.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	29.05.2026 @ 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM	
7.	Land Parcel-1 at Chintal (V), Qutbullapur (M), Medchal-Malkajgiri District	10,890.00 Sq.Yds	Residential	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	70,000/-	2,500/-	1.00	28.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	29.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	
8.	Land Parcel-2 at Chintal (V), Qutbullapur (M), Medchal-Malkajgiri District	3,388.00 Sq.Yds	(School)	19.05.2026 @ 3:00 PM	40,000/-	2,500/-	0.50	28.05.2026 Upto 5:00 PM	29.05.2026 @ 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM	

WHO CAN APPLY

- Any individual or group of individuals (Citizen of India above the age of 18 years), Company Private/ Public/ Limited Liability Partnership), Proprietary Firms, Partnership Firms/LLPs, Trusts. Registered Societies, Financial Institutions, Banks, NBFCs, Real Estate Funds, Public & Semi-Public Undertakings of State Govt. or Central Govt., Govt. Departments, Joint Venture Consortium.
- The bidder must be eligible to build/ own commercial/multi-purpose properties in India and must be competent to enter into contract.
- FDI upto 100% is permitted on automatic route as per DIP - GoI.
- Foreign companies which have established a branch office or other place of business in India, in accordance with RBI, GoI/FEMA/FERA regulations, can acquire any immovable property in India, which is necessary for or incidental to carrying on such activity*

Details along with site-wise e-brochures are available at website:
http://www.tghb.cgg.gov.in
For Site Visit & Queries*: 9908523218
9490189394 (EE South-S.Nos.1 to 4), 9848391845 (EE North-S.Nos.5,7 & 8)
9989334835 (EE Western-S.No.6).
on all working days from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

For TGHB Open Plots e-Auction through MSTC Sessions log on to
https://www.mstcecommerce.com

Date of Notification: 07.05.2026
Registration fee: Rs.1,180/-
(non refundable) inclusive of GST in MSTC portal

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The proposed open plots/land parcel for e-Auction are in prime locations and existing in fully developed area.
2. The proposed land parcel at Chintal is in prime location abutting to 100'-0" wide existing road and proposed 200'-0" Master Plan Road.
3. The proposed land parcel/open plots GDPZ use at Raviryal is abutting to 200'-0" wide Srisailam State Highway and is very near to RGI Airport with stone throw distance from the land parcels.
4. The bidders will be able to take up residential & GDPZ purpose, since the land is abutting to 100' / 200' wide existing/ proposed Master Plan Roads

For further details on TGHB : Log on to tghb.cgg.gov.in
For Auction details and Participation Log on to www.mstcecommerce.com I www.mstcindia.co.in

Sd/-
V.P.GAUTHAM, IAS
Vice Chairman and Housing Commissioner,
Telangana Housing Board.

DIPR R.O. No: 109-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 07-05-2026

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Robert Downey Jr takes a swipe at social media influencers, calling them 'stars of the future'

Spirit will release in March 2027: Makers confirm

Cannes to host a special screening of Fast The Furious and the Future movie

James Cameron faces legal trouble over unauthorised use of actress' likeness in Avatar

Bizarre?

Oldest living animal falsely declared dead in a crypto scam

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

CPM'S M A BABY: DESPITE POLL LOSSES, MARXISM WILL STAY RELEVANT AS LONG AS SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES EXIST

PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN SAYS STATE WILL BRING STRICTER ANTI-DRUG LAW, TO SEIZE SMUGGLERS' ASSETS

Witness account key to Suvendu aide murder probe

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Sumati Yengkhom | TNN

Barasat/Dohariya: Bengal police are banking on testimony of a man identified as Mintu to reconstruct final moments of BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandranath Rath, who was shot dead near his house in Madhyamgram on Kolkata's northeastern edge, investigators said Thursday.

Rath was returning from Kolkata late Wednesday when gunmen intercepted his SUV near Dohariya on Jessore Road, close to Kolkata airport in North 24 Parganas district. Witnesses alleged a hatchback blocked the Scorpio barely 170m from Rath's apartment before shooters on a bike opened fire from the left side at point-blank range.

Mintu, believed to be travelling with Rath, escaped unhurt after ducking between seats. Driver Buddhadeb Bera suffered multiple bullet wounds. "He (Mintu) looked visibly shaken and frightened. I had to tell him we were locals before he rolled down the windows," said Sushanta Sarkar, among the first people to reach the spot.

Sarkar, a trader from Dehoriya Methopara and a BJP worker, said he heard what sounded like firecrackers around 10.10pm while feeding stray dogs nearby. "I thought somebody was celebrating BJP's win or an IPL moment. Then someone came running and shouted two people had been shot," he said.

Sarkar said he found the Scorpio blocked on a narrow road by a small silver hatchback. "As I reached closer, I heard groans from inside the SUV. Driver would not open windows. I assured him I was there to help," he said.

"When windows opened, there was blood everywhere. Rath was slouched in the front seat and breathing at long intervals," Sarkar said. He claimed Mintu repeatedly cried out: "*Sir ki holo? Keno guli chalalo?*" ("What happened? Why did they fire?")

Investigators from SIT and Barasat police declined to comment on Mintu's whereabouts. State intelligence branch, part of probe team, has been tasked with recording his statement.

Rath's mother: It's political revenge, I demand life term

Chandipur: Chandranath Rath's mother Hasirani Rath alleged Thursday that her son was killed over Suvendu Adhikari's contest against Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur, **reports Suman Mandal**. "I believe he was on their radar for a long time. By killing my son, Trinamool has taken revenge for Suvendu babu's performance against Mamata," alleged the 65-year-old former BJP panchayat samiti member in Chandipur.

Relatives said Rath had grown closer to his mother after his father's recent death and tried to spend time with her whenever work brought him to East Midnapore. "As a mother, I can't seek death for anyone. But I demand life imprisonment for those guilty," said Hasirani, who had been associated with TMC before shifting to BJP after Adhikari left the party.

Tie-up with ADMK? DMK MLAs leave it up to Stalin

'TN Can't Afford Another Poll, Our Objective Is To Ensure Stable Govt'

SUSPENSE ON: The road leading to TVK chief Vijay's Neelankarai residence, which resembled a fortress in the immediate aftermath of poll results, now appears deserted after police security was withdrawn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Amid reports of talks between DMK and AIADMK for a post poll tie-up, the DMK Legislature Party has empowered outgoing chief minister M K Stalin to "study the evolving political situation and take immediate decisions" to ensure formation of a stable govt.

A resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of DMK MLAs chaired by Stalin in Chennai on Thursday. DMK sources said Stalin has told the MLAs that they should abide by any decision taken by the high command in the interest of the party.

DMK politicians neither denied that talks were on for a DMK-AIADMK alliance nor ruled out the possibility of such a pact between the two Dravidian rivals. When reporters asked DMK's organisational secretary T K S Elangovan about reports on a DMK-AIADMK alliance, he said "no such decision has been taken … But we will all abide by any decision taken by our leader (Stalin)'.

VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan also hinted that the two parties were discussing an alliance. "It has not taken shape yet. Once it takes shape I will comment," he said when asked for his views on a possible DMK-AIADMK pact. The AIADMK camp, however, remained tight-lipped.

DMK's resolution at the legislature party meeting noted that the assembly election has produced a verdict in which no party has secured a majority. "This is a sensitive and complicated political situation. As Tamil Nadu is not prepared for another election, DMK's foremost objective is to ensure formation of a stable govt, while keeping away communal forces," the resolution said.

DMK criticised Congress for walking away from the alliance, equating the party's action to that of BJP's "betrayal of its alliance parties in other states". "This once again demonstrates that Congress party has not changed its old political character," the resolution said. "Congress did not thank our leader after the victory. Instead, Congress stabbed us in the back," the resolution said. "What BJP does in several states, Congress has now done to us in Tamil Nadu," the resolution added.

Politically immoral of Cong to jump to TVK's side: DMK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: "You called Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu a traitor because he had crossed over to BJP from Congress. Now consider this. You called M K Stalin on Tuesday afternoon and said, 'I am with you'. The next morning, you defected from the alliance and jumped to the side you had contested against. Rahul Gandhi ji, we just want to know what you would like to be described as?" said a senior DMK MP, reflecting the anger in the Dravidian outfit's ranks over Congress' dramatic switch to Tamil star Vijay after his TVK emerged as the single largest party at the cost of DMK and AIADMK.

"It is opportunistic to say the least and, also, politically immoral," said the DMK functionary who has held a ministerial position at the Centre and is supposed to reflect Stalin's views. "We did not expect this from Rahul after we spared a Rajya Sabha berth for Congress and gave them more seats than what they should have got on the basis of their strength on the ground. They contested 28 but won only five, and that too only because of the groundwork we did for them."

Talking to **TOI** from Chennai, he dismissed Congress' explanation that they needed to go with Vijay since he has got the mandate. "This is whitewashing brazen opportunism. How would they have reacted if we had joined hands with BJP at the Centre citing Congress' successive defeats?"

The former Union minister said it was DMK which, among all INDIA bloc partners, consistently stood by Congress even when Rahul's actions would generate unease among Congress' members. "In Lok Sabha, they would like to move into the well of the House over different issues, and their own MPs would resist doing that. But we always did as requested, undeterred by the govt's annoyance with our tactics. Not that we agreed with each decision of theirs. But we went along because we were in an alliance," he said. "Alliances are run based on mutual trust. Tell me, who among the allies will trust Rahul now? Will they ever be sure that he will not junk them if he finds that a profitable thing to do?"

"It is because of this type of action of Rahul that he keeps losing polls. He tore off the decision of the Manmohan Singh cabinet, and it continues to haunt him," said the DMK functionary, who also said Congress has a history of betraying DMK. "They twice dismissed Karunanidhi govts. They also brought down the United Front govt in 1996, accusing us of complicity in the unfortunate assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. That it was a false charge was established when they came back to us in 2004 and have not since mentioned it."

HACK OF THE DAY — USE TEMPORARY CHAT IN CHATGPT FOR SENSITIVE AI QUESTIONS

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you ask one-off questions without adding them to your normal ChatGPT history or memory

WHAT TO DO: Start a Temporary Chat when discussing sensitive drafts, personal dilemmas, private documents, or experimental prompts

STEPS:

1. **Open** ChatGPT
2. **Start** a new chat
3. **Select** the Temporary Chat option if available
4. **Ask** your one-off question without relying on saved memory or past context
5. **Return** to a normal chat when you want continuity across conversations

CAREFUL: Temporary Chat is useful for privacy hygiene, but you should still avoid sharing passwords, OTPs, bank PINs, or highly sensitive personal data

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Govt starts free health check-ups for workers aged 40 and above

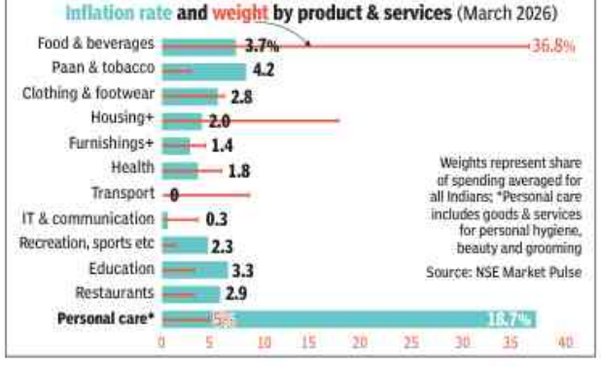
Govt Thursday launched a nationwide free annual health check-up initiative for all workers aged 40 and above under the new labour codes, which were notified on Nov 21. Labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the free check-ups will be conducted yearly across the country as "early detection through health screenings can help prevent serious diseases, and treatment and medicines will be provided through ESIC facilities." He added workers engaged in hazardous occupations and employees working even in establishments with fewer than 10 workers are being brought under ESIC coverage. He said provisions for equal wages for men and women have been ensured, maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, and work-from-home provisions for women incorporated. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Hit hard by inflation? Check your salon visits

How much price rise pinches you depends on your spending pattern. In March, prices of food & beverage rose only 3.7%, even though the weight of this category in consumer price index is over 36%. Price of personal care goods & services rose 19%, but their weightage is only 5%

inflation rate and weight by product & services (March 2026)



Adhikari claims Rath's murder was 'premeditated'

▶ Continued from P 1

We have recovered empty cartridges and live ammunition from the scene. The motive for the killing remains unclear," DGP S N Gupta said after a visit to Madhyamgram.

A 50-second recreation of the crime, based on CCTV footage collected from a local factory around 100m from the site, shows the silver hatchback entering Sheikh Mujib Road at 10pm Wednesday. This road leads to Orchard Estate, where Rath has lived since 2023 with his wife and teenage daughter.

Rath's vehicle is seen in the footage entering the same stretch eight minutes later, after which the hatchback blocks the way. Less than two minutes later, two helmet-wearing riders are seen fleeing on a motorbike towards Jessore Road.

Police said one of the assailants perched on a bike placed a hand on the roof of Rath's vehicle, pressed his pistol hard against the glass window and fired the shots that killed the victim and critically wounded the driver. "Weapons like Glock 47X are generally not used by ordinary criminals," an investigator said.

Rath's autopsy report mentions three gunshot wounds — two to the chest and one to the abdomen — caused excessive blood loss and multiple organ failure. The young man was dead by the time he was wheeled into a private hospital.

Witnesses said the assailants fled in different directions. One bike rode towards the airport and another headed towards either Badu or Rajarhat via bylanes. The hatchback was found about 4km away.

Rath's murder was "premeditated", Adhikari said after his aide's body was taken from the hospital morgue to his Madhyamgram home, adding that he was targeted because of his contribution to his assembly poll victory over former CM Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur. "The killers did a recce over several days and followed the victim before shooting him at close range," said Adhikari.

He dismissed TMC's demand for a court-monitored CBI probe. "Trinamool is irrelevant. Cops are working. I spoke to DGP Gupta. I am confident police will be able to arrest the assailants. The investigation is heading in the right direction," he said.

Siliguri BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh said he was on the phone with Rath when the shooting occurred. "I was talking to him about programmes scheduled for Friday and Saturday. The call snapped.

(With inputs from Roshan Gupta)

Cong camps 'flex' muscle amid race for Kerala CM

T'puram: Congress's battle for Kerala CM crossed from closed-door bargaining to open-street mobilisation Thursday as rival camps staged demonstrations, mounted flex-board offensives and pressed competing claims before AICC observers tasked with choosing the state's next helmsman, **reports Rajiv G**.

UDF allies IUML, RSP, Kerala Congress, CMP and Kerala Congress (Jacob) are learnt to have backed Satheesan

Power struggle erupted despite Congress-led UDF sweeping 103 seats in 140-member assembly, handing the party its biggest mandate in decades and reviving factional fault lines long buried during the campaign.

AICC observers Mukul Wasnik and Ajay Maken held marathon consultations with senior functionaries, MPs, newly elected MLAs and UDF allies before Congress legislature party (CLP) adopted a resolution authorising party president Mallikarjun Kharge to pick the next CM.

Three contenders — party MP KC Venugopal, 63, and six-term MLAs VD Satheesan, 61, and Ramesh Chennithala, 69 — intensified lobbying across 63-member Congress bloc. Venugopal's camp claimed backing of 43 MLAs, while Satheesan and Chennithala factions projected support of 35 and 22 respectively, triggering aggressive last-mile manoeuvring before high command seals the verdict.

Sources said Satheesan indicated he could stay away from both cabinet and organisational responsibilities if denied top post, raising stakes in already volatile succession contest.

Decision on next CM is expected by Sunday after consultations between Kharge and Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi.

Bomb attack near RG Kar victim's house

Sanjib Chakraborty & Rupak Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata/Howrah: Five BJP workers suffered splinter wounds after bike-borne miscreants allegedly hurled bombs at them near the Panihati house of the RG Kar rape-murder victim late on Wednesday. Police arrested three persons on the basis of CCTV footage.

The victim's mother, who contested and won from Panihati assembly seat on a BJP ticket, condemned the attack. "Several people who had actively participated in my poll campaign were among those injured," she told **TOI**.

In Howrah, two functionaries from BJP's minority cell and a pedestrian were seriously injured after several bombs were hurled at a victory procession on Thursday. Their condition is stated to be critical.

Witnesses in Panihati alleged that BJP workers were interacting with residents when four motorcycle-borne assailants allegedly targeted them with bombs.

Police said the arrested suspects had been produced before a local court. They suspect the attack to be an outcome of a previous rivalry.

In another case, Somnath Dhar, a BJP functionary from Baranagar constituency, was allegedly stabbed and his family was attacked near his home.

In Basirhat in North 24 Parganas, BJP's Rohit Roy suffered a gunshot wound during a clash between TMC and BJP late Wednesday. BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya claimed four rounds were fired at BJP workers on Wednesday.

Allies to discuss future course of action today

▶ Continued from P 1

Two independent sources told **TOI** that the talks started with AIADMK general secretary calling up DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin on May 4 evening when TVK emerged winner.

Functionaries of DMK's allies other than Congress, which moved to the TVK side on Wednesday, have been meeting Stalin for three days.

"In Thursday's meeting, the topic of social media being abuzz with DMK-AIADMK talks came up," said a source.

"The allies said it would be taken into account during their respective party meetings on Friday to decide on the future course of action," said an alliance party functionary.

Asked about the possibility of VCK approving a DMK-AIADMK understanding, a senior VCK member said: "When there is a threat in the name of TVK, why not AIADMK and DMK join hands to provide a stable govt?"

TVK chief Vijay with TN governor Rajendra Arlekar in Chennai on Wednesday. Sources said AIADMK and DMKstarted talks on May 4 evening after TVK emerged winner

AIADMK legislators continued to be holed up in a resort in Puducherry for the second day AIADMK's allies PMK (4 seats), AMMK and BJP (1 each) have been lying low.

Nishant needed in govt to keep party intact: JD(U) neta

▶ Continued from P 1

The list of new ministers — 15 from BJP, 13 of JD (U), two from LJP (Ram Vilas) and one each from HAM (S) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha — reflected careful balancing of caste & regional aspirations alongside alliance management. Besides Nishant (50, first-time ministers in the cabinet include Dr Shweta Gupta, Shailesh Kumar alias Bulo Mandal, Mithilesh Tiwari, Ramchandra Prasad, Nand Kishore Ram and Kumar Shailendra. BJP's Mangal Pandey was a surprise exclusion.

"We will work under Samrat Choudhary's leadership and my father's guidance-...*Hum log vikas ka kaam karte rahenge* (We will continue working for the state's growth)," Nishant said after the swearing-in.

A senior JD(U) functionary said Nishant being part of the govt was needed "to keep JD(U) intact after Nitish shifted to Delhi politics and, secondly, to carry forward his father's legacy".

Trinamool rumblings grow after debacle

Kolkata: Filmmaker and former TMC MLA **Raj Chakraborty** announced Thursday that he is quitting politics, joining many party functionaries publicly turning on the leadership as they blamed organisational arrogance and grassroots disconnect for the poll debacle, **reports Tamaghna Banerjee**.

"My entry into political life began in 2021... I continued to try and fulfil my duties as an MLA....That chapter came to an end in 2026. Along with it, my journey in political life has also concluded," Chakraborty, who lost from Barrackpore, said.

Chakraborty's move followed actor and TMC MP Dev's acceptance of "the people's mandate". While congratulating BJP on its victory, Dev appealed to the incoming administration to preserve harmony within Bengal's film industry and ensure artistic freedom.

But the strongest words came from TMC's former MLAs, with many training guns on Abhishek Banerjee, CM Mamata Banerjee's nephew who is party general secretary and MP. "The party had split into two factions. On one side was Didi, and on the other was Abhishek. I believe Abhishek pressured Didi to uphold his decisions," said senior TMC functionary in Cooch Behar and ex-minister Rabindranath Ghosh. Former cricketer and ex-minister Manoj Tiwary, also left out this time, slammed former sports minister Aroop Biswas, among the big losers this time. "Govt stopped working for ordinary people," Tiwary said.

Former Birbhum TMC MLA Bikash Roy Chowdhury decried the growing influence of political consultant I-PAC.

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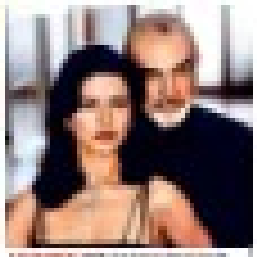
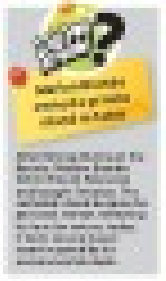
SAD DEMISE

Mathew Raymon George (Kunjumon), 74, of the Muriyatil & Panndrakunnel families, entered eternal rest on 6/5/26.
Deeply mourned by family & friends. Funeral on Friday, Bangalore.

Hollywood's favourite criminal? The art thief



I refused to stay as just an actress for all my life: Lara



BTS buzz brings Mexico City to a standstill

Somnath and Bharat's unconquerable spirit!

By Narendra Modi

At the start of 2026, I had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Now, I will be back in Somnath on 11th May to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored Temple by the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. In less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal or what we describe as from Vidhvans to Srijan.

Somnath gives us a civilisational message. The vast sea before it evokes timelessness. The waves tell us…that no matter how fierce the storms are or how turbulent the tides are, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. The waves return to the shore, as though reminding every generation that the spirit of the people can never be subdued for long.

Our ancient scriptures say, a Pradakshina of the divine Prabhasa (Somnath) is equal to a Pradakshina of the whole earth itself! While people have come here to pray, they have also experienced the remarkable continuity of a civilisation whose flame could never be extinguished. Empires rose and fell, tides changed, history moved through conquest and upheaval, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.

It is time to remember the countless greats who stood firm in the face of tyranny. There were Lakulisha and Soma Sarman, who transformed Prabhasa into a great centre of philosophy. Chakravarti Maharaja Dharasena IV of Vallabhi built the Second Temple there centuries ago. Bhima Deva, Jayapala and Anandapala will always be remembered for defending civilisational honour against invasions. It is said that Raja Bhoja too helped with the reconstruction. Karna Deva and Siddharaja Jayasimha played a vital role in restoring Gujarat's political and cultural strength. Bhava Brihaspati, Kumarapala Solanki and the Pashupata Acharyas rebuilt and sustained the shrine as a great centre of worship and learning. Vishaladeva Vaghela and Tripurantaka protected its intellectual and spiritual traditions. Mahipaladeva and Ra Khangar were instrumental in reviving worship after destruction. Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, whose 300th birth centenary is being marked, ensured the continuity of devotion in the most difficult of times. There were the Gaekwads of Baroda, who safeguarded the rights of pilgrims. And of course, our soil is blessed to have nurtured brave personalities like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Veer Vegdaji Bhil, whose sacrifice and courage have become a part of Somnath's living memory.

In the 1940s, when the spirit of freedom swept across India and the foundations of a new republic were being laid under the leadership of towering figures like Sardar Patel, one thing continued to trouble him deeply…the condition of Somnath. On 13th Nov 1947, during Diwali time, he stood next to the dilapidated ruins of the temple with sea-water in his hands and said, "On this auspicious day of the (Gujarati) New Year, we have decided that Somnath should be reconstructed. You, people of Saurashtra, should do your best. This is a holy task in which all should participate." On one clarion call of Sardar Patel, it was not only the people of Gujarat but also the people of the whole of India that responded enthusiastically.

Unfortunately, fate did not allow Sardar Patel to witness the fulfilment of the dream he had so passionately championed. Before the restored Somnath Temple could open its doors to devotees, he had departed from this world. Yet, his impact continued to be felt over the sacred shores of Prabhas Patan. His vision was championed by Shri KM Munshi, ably supported by the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar. In 1951, when the Temple was complete, it was decided to call the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, for the ceremony. Overcoming strong objections from the then PM Pandit Nehru, Dr. Prasad graced the ceremony, thus making it even more special and historic.

File photo

"I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath… When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade
PM NARENDRA MODI

My mind also goes back to October 2001, when I had just taken over as CM. On 31st Oct 2001, the Jayanti of Sardar Patel, Gujarat govt had the honour of organising a programme to mark 50 years since the Somnath Temple opened its doors. It also coincided with the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Patel. The then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then home minister LK Advani attended the programme.

During his speech on 11th May 1951, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that the Somnath Temple proclaims to the world that anything with unparalleled faith and love cannot be destroyed. He expressed hope that this Temple will live in the hearts of people. He also said that the restoration of the Temple was a fulfilment of Sardar Patel's dream, but taking that spirit forward, it is important that we restore prosperity to the lives of people. These are important and inspiring messages he gave.

This is the path we have been walking for over a decade. I consider it my good fortune that, inspired by the principle of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi', from Somnath to Kashi, Kamakhya to Kedarnath, Ayodhya to Ujjain, Trimbakeshwar to Srisailam, our team has had the opportunity to equip our spiritual centres with the latest facilities while at the same time preserving their traditional character. This, along with efforts to improve connectivity, ensures more people can visit them. It boosts the local economy, secures livelihoods and deepens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

The struggles and sacrifices of those who laid down their lives to protect Somnath and those who rebuilt it time and again will never be forgotten. Countless individuals from different corners of India contributed to restoring its glory. They saw every part of Bharat as sacred, bound together by a sense of oneness that transcended geography. In a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than ever. Somnath will continue to stand tall in all its glory because the sense of unity and shared civilisational consciousness lives on in the hearts of every Indian. As a tribute to this, remembering the extraordinary courage of a thousand years, there will be special Pujas at Somnath for the next thousand days. It is gladdening to see several people donating for these Pujas as well.

I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade, that is unbroken and unyielding. You will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, our culture remained undefeated and you will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph. It will surely be unforgettable.

Jai Somnath.

(The author is PM of India and chairman of Shree Somnath Trust)

Myanmar-based Kuki militants torch houses in Manipur villages

Imphal: A woman was shot and injured and more than 20 houses burnt by suspected Myanmar-based Kuki militants in coordinated attacks on three villages along the India-Myanmar border in Manipur's Kamjong district early Thursday, police sources said, reports **Donald Sairem**. Police said the attacks targeted Choro, Wanglee and Namlee villages.

The injured woman, a Myanmar citizen sheltering at a refugee camp in Namlee, was shot in the thigh and was shifted to Imphal for treatment, a police officer said. Police said 21 houses were burnt. TNL, the apex body of the Tangkhul Nagas, alleged the attacks were carried out by the Kuki National Army-Burma-backed Peoples' Defence Force, an armed group in Myanmar.

Muslim law board rejects Centre's move on 'Vande'

New Delhi: All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Thursday rejected Union cabinet's decision to accord "Vande Mataram" a status equal to national anthem "Jana Gana Mana", make all 6 stanzas of the song compulsory and mandate its recitation before the national anthem in govt and educational institutions.

It said if govt does not immediately withdraw this decision, AIMPLB will challenge it in the court. It has termed the move "direct violation of the basic spirit of Constitution, religious freedom, secular values of the Constituent Assembly.". TNN

UP boat tragedy: 5 bodies pulled out

Kanpur: Bodies of five people, including four children, were pulled out Thursday, a day after their boat capsized in the Yamuna in UP's Hamirpur. Rescue operation by NDRF & SDRF and PAC personnel was underway to locate one missing child. At least six people went missing after a boat carrying nine passengers capsized while returning from a river island. TNN

Boy slips into stream, bro jumps in; both die

Shimla: Two minor brothers drowned in a stream in Nohradhar area of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district Thursday while grazing cattle and goats.

Police said, Ayaan (8) and his brother Abhinav (9) were playing near the stream when Ayaan slipped in. Abhinav jumped in to save him, but both drowned. The accident occurred in Devamanal gram panchayat of Sangrah subdivision. Their father pulled out the bodies of his sons. TNN

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RN-27/May 4, 2026

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Reserve Bank of India
Foreign Exchange Department
Bengaluru

In exercise of powers conferred on it under section 10 (3) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Reserve Bank of India, has revoked the Full Fledged Money Changers (FFMC) license of the following Company for contravention of extant FEMA provisions and Directions issued thereunder:

Sl. No	Name and Registered Office Address	License Number	Issued on	Cancellation Date
1	M/s Bangalore Classic Tours and Travels Pvt Ltd. 41, A.J Chambers R.V. Road, Basavanagudi Bengaluru-560004	BLR-FFMC-0196-2023	November 27, 2024	April 08, 2026

Consequent to the revocation, the FFMC shall not undertake or transact money changing activities as specified in the Master Direction on Money Changing Activities dated January 01, 2016, updated from time to time, and available on the RBI website (https://www.rbi.org.in).

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विदेशी मुद्रा विभाग
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विदेशी मुद्रा प्रबंध अधिनियम, 1999 की धारा 10(3) के तहत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने निम्नलिखित कंपनी के संपूर्ण मुद्रा परिवर्तक (एफएफएमसी) लाइसेंस को फेमा के मौजूदा प्रावधानों और उसके तहत जारी निदेशों के उल्लंघन के कारण रद्द कर दिया है:

क्र.	नाम और पंजीकृत कार्यालय का पता	लाइसेंस संख्या	जारी करने की तिथि	रद्द आदेश की तिथि
1	मेसर्स बैंगलोर क्लासिक टूर्स एंड ट्रैवल्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 41, ए.जे. चैम्बर्स आर.वी. रोड, बसवनगुड़ी बेंगलुरु-560004	बीएलआर-एफएफएमसी-0196-2023	27 नवंबर 2024	08 अप्रैल 2026

मुद्रा परिवर्तन गतिविधियों पर दिनांक 1 जनवरी 2016 के मास्टर निदेशों, जिसे समय-समय पर अद्यतन किया गया है और जो आरबीआई की वेबसाइट (https://www.rbi.org.in) पर उपलब्ध है, के अनुसार रद्दीकरण के परिणामस्वरूप, उपरोक्त एफएफएमसी, मुद्रा परिवर्तन संबंधी लेनदेन या गतिविधियों को नहीं करेगा।

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Consolidated

Revenue Q4 14.1 % ↑ FY26 12% ↑
PROFIT EBITDA (as % of sales) 20.3% (19% PY) ↑ Profit After Tax 77% ↑

Extract of Audited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2026

₹ in Lakhs

S.No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED				
		Quarter ended			Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	37,899	33,156	33,222	136,952	122,325
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,579	4,808	4,835	20,123	16,522
3	Exceptional items - (loss) (net)	-	(703)	(4,762)	(703)	(5,189)
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,579	4,103	73	19,420	11,333
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4,209	2,932	(134)	14,563	8,232
6	Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	3,738	2,763	(417)	14,427	8,537
7	Paid up Equity share capital (par value Rs 2/- each, fully paid)	1,938	1,938	1,938	1,938	1,938
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as per Balance sheet	-	-	-	96,366	91,708
9	Earnings per share (before and after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 2/- each)					
	Basic (Before Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Item)	4.27	3.84	3.33	15.61	12.19
	Diluted (Before Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Item)	4.27	3.84	3.33	15.61	12.19
	Basic (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Item)	4.27	2.95	(0.21)	14.73	8.20
	Diluted (After Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Item)	4.27	2.95	(0.21)	14.73	8.20

S.No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				
		Quarter ended			Year ended	
		31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	32,864	30,026	29,906	122,408	110,491
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4,676	4,006	4,295	16,846	13,172
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,469	2,397	(511)	12,151	5,868

1 The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and then approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 07 May 2026

2. The results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (Ind AS) Rules, 2015 prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) (Amendment) Rules, 2016.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2026 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the websites of BSE http://www.bseindia.com, NSE http://www.nseindia.com and also on Company's website at http://www.nrbbearings.com/

Place : Mumbai
Date : 07.05.2026

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

(Ms) Harshbeena Zaveri
Vice-Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No. 00003948

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SC: Individual pleas against religious practices may break religions, courts

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed grave apprehension over allowing individuals to challenge religious practices and said it would break every religion and constitutional court as thousands would clog courts with PILs, based on self-assessments of these customs, to seek quashing the customs and norms. This remark came from a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, A Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi after senior advocate Raju Ramachandran said since the Constitution focuses on protecting individual's fundamental rights, constitutional courts must step in if a religious practice or custom violated the rights of an individual.

Justice Nagarathna said, "If every individual is free to approach the constitutional court to question or challenge religious practices and customs in constitutional courts, then what will happen to our civilisation which is intrinsically linked to religion?"

Justice Sundresh said, "In such a scenario, every religion and constitutional court will break as thousands of individuals, with different views about religion and religious practices, will come to court clogging the system. A religious custom may be regressive from the viewpoint of an individual and the same could be an essential religious practice for another. How does the court determine who is right?"

Justice Sundresh clarified that he did not mean a person, wronged by a religious practice, had no remedies. He/she can surely move the civil courts seeking declaration that the religious practice had harmed him/her and seek damages from the denomination, the judge said.

Justice Nagarathna said, "What is unique to India is that we are a civilisation despite the diversity and plurality. Despite being a sovereign democratic republic, it is a civilisation where there is intimate relation between people and their religion. Whether religious practices can be questioned within the denomination or sect for reforms, should the govt step in to legislate social reforms or should the constitutional courts step in? This question is troubling us."

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No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 07-05-2026

CORRIGENDUM - 02

Sub: Regarding Correction of Date in Tender Notification.
Reference: This office KPP Portal Tender Notice No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27, Date: 18-04-2026.
In connection with the above subject and Reference, a Tender has been called by reference and the date has been amended in the Tender Notification due to technical reason, the details of which are as follows.
Revised Time Schedule: 1) Pre Bid Meeting: **13-05-2026 at 15.00 Hrs. 2)** Last date for uploading the filled Proposal: **30-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **01-06-2026 at 16.30 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
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SC posts Kapoor trust row for Aug

▶ Continued from page 1

The court asked the parties to appear before Justice Chandrachud for mediation. "We shall await for a preliminary report from the mediator and thereafter proceed further with the matter," the bench said and posted the matter for Aug. The court, on April 27, sought a response from Priya Kapur and others on a lawsuit by Sunjay Kapur's mother seeking directions to declare the family trust "null and void".

FGM inflicts injury, is an offence under Pocso: Bohra woman in SC

'Causes Physical & Mental Trauma On Minor Girls'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

Judicial intervention in such cases is not interference with religion, but enforcement of the constitutional duty to protect the dignity, bodily integrity, and future of every child

New Delhi: A Dawoodi Bohra Muslim woman on Thursday questioned the denominational custom of female genital mutilation (FGM) and said the ritual inflicts bodily injury, irreversible physical and mental trauma on minor girls, which is a violation of her health and dignity and an offence under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Appearing for Masooma Ranalvi, senior advocate Sidharth Luthra told a nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that FGM ritual is performed on seven-year-old girls, hence there is no question of the act being consensual and her parents cannot protest as it could invite the wrath of the religious head of the community, who could ex-communicate them.

The fear of ex-communication, which ranges from social boycott to severance of all economic and social ties with members of the community, forcibly silences protest against the ritual, Luthra said. Earlier, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran had narrated how the untrammeled power to excommunicate members defying the religious head Dai's diktat had resulted in divorces, loss of business and dignity to individuals.

The bench comprising CJI Kant, Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, A Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and J Bagchi said individual cases of ex-communication can be challenged in civil courts but doubted whether the ex-communication used to keep the denomination intact on religious grounds could be questioned in a court of law.

Justice Bagchi expressed surprise that FGM, which causes injuries to vital parts of young girls, has not yet been banned by enacting a law by the govt, which has a constitutional mandate to usher in social and religious reforms through legislation.

Luthra said, "Where a child is subjected to physical pain, bodily alteration, coercive participation, or mental suffering in the name of religious observance, the matter ceases to remain one of protected religious autonomy and enters the domain of constitutional and criminal scrutiny."

MPs suspended, law passed sans debate, SC told

▶ Continued from page 1

Responding to his submission, the bench said, "We can only say that we wish such speed is shown in appointment of judges. Especially HC judges." It, however, refused to give credence to Hansaria's allegation that they were appointed just a day before SC's hearing on March 15 to frustrate court proceedings, as no proof was placed to substantiate the allegation.

Senior advocates Sanjay Parikh, Shadan Farasat and Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the other petitioners, contended that the law was passed by Parliament without proper discussion and 141 MPs from the opposition were under suspension when it was passed.

They said the law was brought to undo SC's verdict by which independence was infused in the appointment process of CEC/election commissioners. The 2023 SC verdict had held that appointment was to be done by a panel of PM, leader of opposition (LoP) and CJI, but under new law, CJI was replaced by a Union cabinet minister in the committee.

Bhushan submitted that every political party in office tried to use the commission for political gains and that is the reason a political party, when being in opposition, shouted to make the poll panel free from govt interference, but it refrained from taking decisions when it came to office. He said the law was framed for appointment after SC intervened in 2023.

Without naming former law minister Arun Jaitely, who had once coined the term "tyranny of the unelected" for judiciary for its activism and interference in policy matters, Justice Datta said, "I am reminded of a parliamentarian saying tyranny of the unelected. This should be equated with tyranny of the elected."

"Whoever comes to power is doing the same thing. It is unfortunate for the country. I saw a video of BBC on Dr Ambedkar. Within three years of framing of the Constitution, he said that democracy is not working in this country," the bench said.

Ex-judge quits SIR tribunal, says it will take 4 yrs to clear appeals

Debashis.Konar
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Calcutta high court's former chief justice TS Sivagnanam resigned from an SIR tribunal in Bengal on Thursday. He cited personal reasons in his resignation letter to Calcutta HC chief justice Sujoy Paul and Election Commission. After clearing 1,777 appeals over 22 days and rejecting none, Justice Sivagnanam said at its present pace, the tribunal would need four years to clear all Kolkata appeals.

Initially, Justice Sivagnanam was appointed to the tribunal for petitioners from North 24 Parganas and Kolkata, but he also conducted hearings for cases from Malda, Murshidabad and Birbhum as they were referred to him by Supreme Court.

Md Mahatab Sheikh, who won on a Congress ticket from Farakka assembly seat, was the first to have his name cleared by the tribunal headed by Justice Sivagnanam. Justice Sivagnanam, who will be flying back to Chennai on Friday, said, "I even heard the appeals of Suprabuddha Sen, the grandson of eminent painter Nandalal Bose, and his wife Deepa Sen and restored their voting rights. I approached the appeals with an open mind. Later, I verified the appeals from Kolkata South and Kolkata North. I operated daily from 8.30am to 5pm to clear as many cases as I could."

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WE, Iftkhar Pasha & Ruksar sulthana, R/at No.17, 1st floor, 16th Cross, Kanakanagar, Blr, have changed our minor daughter's name from Airah Sulthan to Alia Sulthan, vide affidavit dt: 04-05-2026 before notary Sivakumara MN, B.lore.

I Sabir Pasha Khadeer Pasha Yalgod Age-45, #16, Venugopal Layout 1st main Anand Nagar main road Hebbal Bangalore 560024 Have changed my name as Sabir Pasha Yalgod Vide Affidavit dated 7-5-26 before Notary Leela Advocate Bengaluru

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Mercedes Benz	GLC 300 4M	Petrol	2023	1
Mercedes Benz	GLC 300 4M	Petrol	2023	1
Mercedes Benz	GLC 220d 4M	Diesel	2022	1
Mercedes Benz	GLC 220d 4M	Diesel	2022	1
Mercedes Benz	GLC 200	Petrol	2021	1
Mercedes Benz	E 250 cdi	Diesel	2016	1
Mercedes Benz	EQB 350 4M	Electric	2023	1
Mercedes Benz	EQS 580 4M	Electric	2024	1
Jeep	Jeep Compass LTD 2.0d	Diesel	2018	1
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Courage starts with showing up and letting ourselves be seen — Brené Brown

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'David Attenborough has uplifted our bond with nature — he's made generations love and protect it'

The extraordinary natural historian, ecological advocate, writer and broadcaster ***Sir David Attenborough*** *turns 100 today. Environmental filmmaker* ***Ashwika Kapur*** *speaks with* ***Krishnendu Mukherjee*** *about Attenborough's documentaries, his wonder and precision — and filming with him, jumbos and jam tarts — sending birthday wishes and gratitude in* ***Times Evoke****:*

Photo via Ashwika Kapur for Humble Bee Films

SHOWING US THE BIGGER PICTURE: Sir David Attenborough has changed many people's understanding of nature — and improved some media too, his shows making it focus more on the grand mysteries, intriguing science and wonderful beauties that form life on Earth

When did Sir David Attenborough first enter your life?

■ I grew up in Kolkata in the 1990s when natural history television programmes were not readily available in India. However, I was an animal-mad child — by the time I turned five, the balcony of our flat was already a sanctuary for rescued birds, frogs, rabbits and squirrels. My father encouraged my love for animals. He sourced a small treasure trove of David Attenborough tapes from abroad and brought them home, one on each trip. I watched 'Life on Earth', 'The Trials of Life', 'The Private Life of Plants', etc., on a tiny TV set. I thought I was being entertained — I had no idea I was being shaped. After college, the assumption was I'd do something 'sensible' like law or banking — instead, I picked up a camera and left for Africa to be a wildlife filmmaker. That decision

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
100 YEARS YOUNG

had been made for me years ago by a gentleman on a small TV. He walked me through rainforests, deserts and mountains and left an indelible mark.

I then met Sir David in 2014 at the Wildscreen Film Festival, often called 'the Green Oscars'. My first film 'Sirocco — How a Dud Became a Stud', about an eccentric New Zealand kakapo bird, had won me an award. However, the real prize for me was that David Attenborough was there in person. In 2017, I got an opportunity to work with him. I got a project at Humble Bee Films in Bristol. They were producing 'Attenborough and the Giant Elephant'. Generally, people who work on these shoots tend to be a small number of crew Sir David has known for decades. Yet, I pitched what I thought was a long shot. Nobody was capturing the behind-the-scenes of the shoot. I asked if I could — to my disbelief, they said yes.

What was filming with Attenborough like?

■ Day one was at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) library. Sir David was very warm and witty. He came in, said hello to everyone, sat down and pulled out this tiny old phone. Somebody on the crew gently ribbed him about being one of the last people on Earth without a smartphone. He said, totally deadpan, 'Of course it's smart — it even has a calculator in it.'

Getty Images

THEY'RE LIKE YOU & ME: Attenborough befriending two ring-tailed lemurs in 1961

There were other surprises. We took a tea break and Production had set out a large spread with biscuits, jam tarts and a huge bar of chocolate. Being half-Bengali, I'm not the most disciplined when it comes to sugar. But that morning, I was astonished — while the director was talking David Attenborough through shots, his hand moved to the first jam tart. Then, a second. Then, a third. Then, the chocolate. In a world where everyone is constantly logging their macros and taking pictures of oat milk, it was the most liberating thing I had seen.

iStock

FABULOUS CUTTLEFISH! Attenborough explains its camouflage

One day, I plucked up the nerve to mention to him that we'd met briefly at Wildscreen and I'd given him a DVD of my first film, only to learn afterwards that he watched just VHS tapes. He asked me about the film. I told him about Sirocco, the hilarious flightless kakapo who'd become an unlikely sensation. He was amused. 'That sounds wonderful,' he said. 'It's so hard to make wildlife films that are actually funny. What a marvelous species to begin a career with.' I was thrilled for days.

What is David Attenborough like when he's filming?

■ His work is a masterclass in craft. He learns the script but every take is slightly different. He is constantly fine-tuning. Moving a word, replacing a phrase, sharpening a sentence, because he understands the science underneath the words better than anyone else. Between takes, he's hunched over the script, quietly tweaking. He's done with a take only when he thinks it has gone right. If there's a tiny stumble, he is the first to spot it and ask to go again. Watching him hold himself to that standard was quietly humbling.

Later, the shoot moved to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo for a piece-to-camera with a baby elephant. Generally, the years give us experience and, very quietly, take our sense of wonder in exchange — with David Attenborough, they have not. When the keeper brought the calf out, he lit up and greeted her with such gentle warmth. After every continent, every species, every marvel he has filmed, the wonder in him is wholly undimmed. That is the real magic of him.

OUR 'GIFT' TO THEM: Millions of birds perish from plastic

Some critics argue Sir David's earlier work celebrated nature when it should have rung alarm bells — what is your view?

■ I think the question, understandable as it is, slightly misses the man. You only fight for what you love. And before Sir David Attenborough, we simply did not understand the planet as we do today. Bats were thought of as 'vermin'. Snakes were 'demons' to be killed. The deep ocean was a 'frightening abyss'. He's spent half a century, patiently and beautifully introducing us to all of it — and we fell in love. Through his eyes, we saw cuttlefish as artists, dung beetles as engineers and bowerbirds as the most hopeful little romantics on our planet.

There is no number for all the children who, across the world, decided to dedicate their lives to nature because of him. He changed how we humans see this planet — for most of our history, we've treated the natural world as a threat, a resource or a backdrop. Thanks to David Attenborough's shows, generations of people in living rooms across the globe came to know the wild like never before — the love he ignited underpins so many of today's conservation movements, climate marches and moments of grief felt over a species lost or a forest burned.

You only protect what you love — and he gave that love to us. He reframed our relationship with the planet.

We face climate change and ecocide today — which messages from Attenborough's work resonate most in this emergency?

■ There are two, each giving meaning to the other. The first is the message of 'A Life On Our Planet', which he made at 93 and described as his witness statement — 'The story of global decline during a single lifetime.' His numbers are staggering. Since he began filming in the 1950s, wild animal populations have more than halved — the speed of change exceeds anything in the last 10,000 years. We need that message headlining every conversation about climate and biodiversity.

The second is hope. Sir David has shown nature is astonishingly resilient. In the abandoned city of Pripyat near Chernobyl, he showed how, without human presence, the forest has reclaimed the town and wildlife has returned. The point is not despair — it is that the natural world will recover, if we give it half a chance.

Of course, for decades, as he himself says, his programmes showed the beauty of nature instead of how it was in trouble — but what he's done since is enormous. His episode on plastic pollution, featuring a pilot whale carrying her dead calf which had possibly ingested plastic or albatross parents unwittingly feeding plastic to their chicks, did something rare — it changed behaviour immediately and at scale. Around 9 in 10 British viewers reported altering their use of plastic in the weeks after. His other films have followed in that spirit.

This is a man who could have spent his nineties resting on a peerless reputation — he chose instead to spend them ringing the alarm bell. He spent the first half of his career teaching us to love the natural world. He has spent the second half, telling us we are about to lose it. The wildlife storytellers of my generation have inherited that responsibility.

Could you mention some intriguing species shown by Attenborough?

■ First, the kakapo — the wonderful flightless parrot from New Zealand I first saw wobbleing across our TV set in 'The Life of Birds, which then became the subject of my first film. Attenborough has given us the most heart-stopping wild moments ever. The marine iguana hatchling, sprinting for its life from a congregation of writhing racer snakes, could outdo any Hollywood chase! He gave us the first proper film of a snow leopard in the wild. He's filmed orcas hunting in coordinated packs and shown birds of paradise and their theatrical displays. In 'The Green Planet', he taught us to love plants — to make people cheer for a seed is quite a feat!

The one image that has stayed with me since childhood is his legendary encounter with mountain gorillas in 1979. That incredible moment on film was entirely unscripted — one gorilla gently looked him directly in the eyes while two baby gorillas climbed into his lap. He abandoned his script entirely, having the most spontaneous heartfelt response. Attenborough has described that as one of the most extraordinary and privileged moments of his life — I still haven't recovered from it. On his birthday, on behalf of many, I'd like to thank David Attenborough for making us fall in love with our beautiful Earth.

Views expressed are personal

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Photo: Stephen Dunleavy via A. Kapur

A JUMBO ASSIGNMENT: Attenborough, Ashwika and a little elephant, all at work

'Digital assets inheritable': Gujarat court

Ahmedabad: A Gandhinagar court has allowed a woman to access her deceased father's iPhone and iCloud account, observing that a dead person's digital assets are part of inheritable estate under Hindu Succession Act and legal heirs can claim the same, **reports Saeed Khan**.

The case relates to one Shaishav Shah, who died intestate in April 2025. His widow and daughter approached Apple Inc to seek a password/security reset to access his locked iPhone and iCloud data.

The company asked them to obtain a court order authorizing access.

The family then moved the court. The widow submitted a no-objection certificate in favour of her daughter, Sur Shah, accessing the digital data containing "valuable personal material, including photographs, videos voice notes, documents, and contact lists".

On the right to privacy of the deceased, the court said, "It does not survive the death of the individual."

'Cash rain' in Mohali society as ED searches businessman's flat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mohali: Morning walkers at a residential society in Mohali nearly stepped on bundles of currency notes on Thursday and looked up to find more fluttering down on Thursday.

The cash was allegedly thrown from a ninth-floor apartment of a businessman where an ED search was under way as part of a major operation against a section of influential builders.

The central agency searched 12 locations in Chandigarh and Mohali under tight security, sending ripples through the real estate sector of Punjab and Chandigarh.

The alleged "money rain" happened when ED was searching the flat of businessman Nitin Gohil in a housing society at Kharar, Mohali. It's alleged that as soon as ED officials entered the building, someone threw two bags filled with Rs 500 currency notes off the balcony.

Witnesses reported seeing bundles of currency falling from the building. A video, purportedly of the incident, shows a bag filled with cash lying on the ground and bundles of Rs 500 notes scattered nearby. Sources said one person is believed to have escaped with a bag of cash in his car. ED seized another bag containing around Rs 21 lakh in cash.

A grab of a video showing one of the bags and cash scattered at Kharar, Mohali, on Thursday

Sources said the ED action is linked to alleged large-scale financial fraud involving the acquisition of "change of land use" licences from Greater Mohali Area Development Authority.

Song row: Nora Fatehi submits apology to NCW

New Delhi: Actor Nora Fatehi on Thursday appeared before National Commission for Women (NCW) in connection with the controversy over the song 'Sarke Chunar' and submitted an unconditional written apology.

According to commission, Fatehi stated that she was not well-versed in Kannada and was unaware of the objectionable lyrics of Hindi version of the song.

NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar presided over the hearing. The song "Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke" from 'KD: The Devil', a Kannada film, was dubbed in four languages, including Hindi.

During the hearing, Fatehi expressed regret over social impact of the song and assured the commission that she would exercise greater caution and responsibility while associating with future projects.

The NCW chief expressed serious concern over vulgarity and adverse societal impact of such content. TNN

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SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. IWAI/HY/1 (1)/NRTNS-MH/2026-27

Online bids are invited from the reputed firms for engineering, procurement and construction for Setting up of VTS Stations under implementation of National River Traffic & Navigation System (NRT&NS) in the State of Maharashtra for the National waterways 10, 53, 83, 85 & 91.

Important Dates

(1) Date of downloading of Tenders shall be from 08.05.2026, Pre-bid meeting will be held on 15.05.2026 at 1430 hrs. (2) Last date of submission is up to 1500 hrs on 08.06.2026. (3). Date of opening: 09.06.2026 at 1530 hrs. Cost of Tender document is Rs. 5900/- Incl. tax at 18%. For details please visit to IWAI website www.iwai.nic.in and CPP portal website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure /app

Sd/-

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-2/BSWML/Corr- 01/2026-27 **Date:07-05-2026**

CORRIGENDUM- 01

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: This office Tender Notification No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/03/2026-27, Dated: 02.05.2026.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl. No.	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Pre bid meeting	On 12.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.	On 18.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
2	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	On 22.05.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs.	On 29.05.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs.
3	Opening of tender date and time	On 25.05.2026 at 16:30 hrs.	On 30.05.2026 at 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML

DIPR/CP/565/NR/2026-27

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1/TND/2026-27/310 Date: 07.05.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the following work

Description of work: Renovation and Establishing of Metropolitan Surveillance Unit at existing Public Health Institute (PHI) Building, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 255.07 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 3.85 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for completion (including monsoon): **9 months.**

Calendar of Events: Last date for receipt of tenders: **18.05.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.** Date of opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **19.05.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 21841 OF 2018
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

RAJASTHAN PARA MEDICAL COUNCIL — Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
HITESH KUMAR SHARMA AND OTHERS — Respondent(s)

To,
1. VINOD KUMAR S/O SHRI JAGDISH, R/O VILLAGE JANDWALA, SOTTAR, TOWN RATIA, DISTRICT-FATEHABAD, HARYANA — PID: 121190/2026 FOR R[3] IN SLP(C) NO.21841/2018 (SEC XV)
2. KIRAN PRAJAPAT S/O TULSI RAM JI PRAJAPAT, R/O KUMHARAO KA MOHALLA BHUWANA, DISTRICT- UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN — PID: 121191/2026 FOR R[6] IN SLP(C) NO.21841/2018 (SEC XV)
3. YOGINI PATIDAR S/O DEVI LALA JI PRAJAPAT, R/O WARD NO. 01, SALAMPURA NAVAGHARA, GANJI, JHOTARI DISTRICT DUNGARPUR, RAJASTHAN ALSO AT 229-J BLOC, SECTOR-14 DUNGARPUR, RAJASTHAN — PID: 121192/2026 FOR R[7] IN SLP(C) NO.21841/2018 (SEC XV)
4. DURGESH S/O GYANRAM CASTE CHOUDHARY, R/O VILLAGE KETALIA TEHSILMARWAR JUNCTION, DISTRICT-PALI, RAJASTHAN — PID: 121193/2026 FOR R[13] IN SLP(C) No.21841/2018 (SEC XV)

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for COMPLIANCE OF COURTS ORDER above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. NIDHI JASWAL, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 09th April, 2026 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Learned counsel appearing for the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) states that she has received instructions and seeks some time to file a counter affidavit.

As prayed, three weeks' time is granted to the learned counsel for the said respondent to file counter affidavit,

Two weeks' thereafter is granted to the learned counsel for the petitioner(s) to file a rejoinder affidavit thereto, if necessary.

List these matters again on 13th May, 2026.

In the meantime, learned counsel for the petitioner(s) shall take steps for substituted service as well as dasti service upon the unserved respondents in all the matters and shall file an affidavit of service within five weeks.

Pleading be exchanged in the meantime in all the matters."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition along with SLP(C) No. 14458/2019 will be posted for hearing before this Court on 13th May, 2026 at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated : **05th May, 2026** **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

Copy to :-
*1. Ms. Nidhi Jaswal (Adv.)
2. Mr. Rahul Shyam Bhandari (Adv.)
3. Mr. Sadashiv (Adv.)
4. Mr. Sanjay Sharawat (Adv.)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

DASTI SERVICE
*You are also required to file affidavit of dasti notice along with proof of service urgently.

Important Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society to eligible litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel Nos. 011-23116353,23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office))

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.

For further information, please contact the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel No. 011-23071432)

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2257

'Most of who died by suicide were married'

▶ Continued from page 1

Students accounted for 378 deaths, while 343 were daily wage workers. Among the 325 self-employed people who died by suicide, as many as 242 owned their own business. This was closely followed by homemakers, who accounted for 315 deaths.

NCRB DATA

The data showed most of those who died by suicide were married. A total of 1,616 people, including 1,162 men and 454 women, were married, accounting for over 55.6% of the cases. There were 821 unmarried victims, including 543 men, 277 women and one transgender person. While 27 were widowed, 55 divorced and 41 separated, the marital status in the remaining cases is unknown.

The income data revealed that 1,362 of those who died earned less than Rs 1 lakh annually and 1,258 earned between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh annually, indicating a concentration of cases among lower- and lower-middle-income groups.

Only 28 of the people who died by suicide earned over Rs 10 lakh, which made up the smallest portion in the category.

Educational backgrounds showed most had studied up to Class XII, with 537 people falling in the category, followed closely by those educated up to Class X, numbering 525. While as many as 383 people had studied up to Class VIII, 319 had completed their graduation and 310 people had received no formal education.

Cops: Will investigate how watermelon was poisoned

▶ Continued from page 1

JJ Marg police said: "The report will be studied in depth. In consultation with forensic doctors, further investigation will be continued," said DCP Dr Pravin Mundhe.

Police sources said they will probe all angles to ascertain how their food (watermelon) was poisoned: whether it happened at the vendor's end or if someone else is involved.

There was no indication of rat poison in the Dokadia house, police said.

On Wednesday, TOI reported that this case required FSL more time to solve than usual. While toxins are typically detected within the first 10 to 20 rounds of testing, the Dokadia case was a tough one. "The family had vomited out a large portion of the toxin, which is why it required 54 rounds of testing to identify the trace amounts remaining," the forensic official said.

The watermelon that the four ate on Sunday following a family feast of chicken pulao with five other relatives led to their deaths

The official further noted that the ingestion of zinc phosphide triggers the creation of phosphine gas within the body.

When this gas seeps into the lungs, it causes a rapid collapse in oxygen levels.

Bangalore Times

Presenting

SEVEN
SARJAPUR

3 & 4 BHK HOMES | ₹ 1.45 CR* ONWARDS

ONE WORLD, CONNECTED

ANAROCK

080 4568 2533

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited

9th Floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009
Tele-:080-23118888 Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail: rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

No.RGHCL 01/TECH (GEN)/25/2026-27 Dated: 07.05.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through KPP Portal from eligible contractors.

Last date for submission of bid is 21.05.2026

Sl. No.	Name and Place of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Yatri Niwas (Phase-I) (G+1) Floors at Dargah Hazat Sheikh UL Akbar Anwar Masoom Shah Walialla, Mudugoppa Village, Nagar Hobli, Hosnagar Taluk, Shivamogga District **(Fixed Price No Variation).** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT76**	117.81	2.00
2.	Construction of Commercial Buildings (Phase-I) (BF And GF) Floors at Hazrat Syed Sulaiman Basha Qadri Urp Dood Nana Peeran, Laxmeshwar Town, Gadag District **(Fixed Price No Variation).** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT75**	157.08	2.00
3.	Construction of Shopping Complex at Dargah Hajat Syed Mardan-E-Ghayb, Shivanasamudra, Kollegal Taluk, Chamarajanagar District **(Fixed Price No Variation).** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT77**	666.41	10.00

further information visit :
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/CP/RO564/AAPL/2026-27 **Sd/- General Manager (S D)**

32001/153/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
BAITARANI BASIN, KEONJHAR
E-mail- cebmbaitaranibasin16@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. CEBBK-02/2026-27
Bid identification No - CEBBK-BAID-02/2026-27

1	Construction of Drainage Sluice at RD 13500M over Sapua Nallah of Baitarani Right Embankment	
2	**Nature of the works**	**Drainage Sluice**
3	**No of works**	1 (One)
4	**Value of works (Excluding GST)**	Rs. 8,45,76,272/-
5	**Period of completion**	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
6	**Class of contractors**	**'A' & 'Special Class'**
7	**Procurement Officer**	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Baitarani Basin, Keonjhar
8	**Availability of tender for On-line bidding**	From 11.00hrs of 07.05.2026 to 22.05.2026 up to 17.00hrs.
9	**Date and time of opening of Technical Bid**	25.05.2026 at 11.00hrs.
10	**Date and of opening Financial Bid**	After evaluation of Technical Bid

Further details conditions can be seen from the Govt. web site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
* Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
* The Corrigendum / cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basih Manager,
Baitarani Basin, Keonjhar
OIPR-32001/32495/1/26-27/0003

11001/37/2627

ରମାଦେବୀ ମହିଳା ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବିଦ୍ୟାବିହାର, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

Rama Devi Women's University
Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751022, Ph.no-0674-2542644
E-mail- registrar@rdwu.ac.in, Website- https://rdwu.ac.in
No. 4152 /Dt. 30.04.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates as per UGC eligibility criteria (UGC Notification 18th July 2018 and subsequent amendments) to fill up various regular faculty positions (including backlog vacancy) in the Departments of Botany, Business Administration, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Gender Studies, Hindi, History, Home Science, Journalism & Mass Communication, Life Science, Mathematics, Music, Odia, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics and Zoology of Rama Devi Women's University. Please refer website: **https://rdwu.ac.in/** for vacancy details notification wise.

Positions :
a) Professors (Notification No. 4149, dt. 30.04.2026)
b) Associate Professors (Notification No. 4150, dt. 30.04.2026)
c) Assistant Professors (Notification No. 4151, dt. 30.04.2026)

The filled application must be submitted online through the HIMS Portal **(https://hims.odisha.gov.in/)**, which will be available from **07.05.2026** onwards. Candidates are required to complete the application in all respects and upload all necessary supporting documents on or before **10.06.2026.**

In addition, a hard copy of the downloaded submitted application along with all relevant documents, must be sent only via Speed Post to the Registrar, Rama Devi Women's University, Vidya Vihar, P.O.-Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022 District-Khorda, (Odisha) so as to reach on or before **20.06.2026.**

For detailed information, please visit University website **https://rdwu.ac.in/.**

By order of the Vice Chancellor
Sd/-
Registrar
OIPR - 11001/11031/1/26-27/0003

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB / Store/2026-25 (326) Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees(Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Audio Investigation Software	01	10,000/-	3,96,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through** website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice. gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule** :

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries -through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	11/05/2025 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced seperately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this web site only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

G-12521/26

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

''पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार''

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-13/420/2026-27 Date: 07.05.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI & Class-1 (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Part-A : Establishment of 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at Gowribidanur Industrial Area Phase-3, Chikkaballapura District. **Part-B:** (i) Construction of 66kV SC line on DC towers from Kudumalakunte 66/11kV Substation to common tower for distance of 0.958 kms. (ii) Construction of 66kV SC line on DC Towers from Vidhurashwatha 66/11kV Substation to common tower for distance of 3.355 kms. (iii) Construction of 66kV DC Line on DC Towers from Common Point to proposed 66/11kV Gowribidnur Industrial Area 3rd Phase Substation for a distance of 1.971 kms. **Part-C:** (i) Providing 1 No of additional line TB at existing Industrial 66/11kV Substation Kudumalakunte Area in Chikkaballapura District. (ii) Providing 1 No of additional TB at existing 66/11kV Substation Vidurashwatha in Chikkaballapura District. (2nd Call)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **25.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1,
KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/566/Zen/2026-27

KSEB **KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED** TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Chief Engineer, (IT,CR,&CAPS),Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_847704_1 **PAC:**Rs. Rs.15.54 Crores
Last Date: 15.05.2026 06.00 pm

O/o the Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_848542_1 **PAC:** Rs. Rs.72,16,30,000/-
Last Date: 23.05.2026 .05.00 pm
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_848709_1 **PAC:** Rs. Rs.88,41,41,550/-
Last Date: 23.05.2026 05.00 pm
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_836605_2 **PAC:** Rs. Rs.3,97,81,100/-
Last Date: 13.05.2026 03.00 pm

Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in** Ref:PR/MC1/E610 - E-tender/2026

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Phone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-6/Tnd/MCH-KGF/2026-27/312 Date:07.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-II & Above contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in KPP Portal for the following work.
(1) Description of work: **Providing infrastructural Improvement and supplying Equipments to MCH in K.G.F, Kolar District (Call-2)** Approx. Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 251.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 3.80 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **06 Months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **22.05.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **25.05.2026 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPPP platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Engineer (CON), South Eastern Railway, Rourkela invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 371614-ROU-DCE-C-01-2026, Date: 06.05.2026. Brief Description of work:** Execution of Earthwork in formation by filling and cutting, blanketing, side drain, central drain, catch water drain, protection work, P. way track linking work, P.Way fitting, transportation of P. Way materials, supply of ballast, construction of service buildings, construction of FOB & metalizing work etc. of Kechobahal Yard modification in connection with GCT to serve M/s NTPC, Darlipali STPP (Deposit terms) under the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/ Rourkela of South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 14.84 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 29,70,000. **Completion Period:** 12 months. **Closing Date:** 01.06.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-137)**

Tender Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-36-2026, Dated: 06.05.2026. Divisional Railway Manager/Engg/South Eastern Railway, Ranchi-834003 for & on behalf of President of India, invites E-tender for the following work: **Name of work:** Replacement of old FOB by new 6.10m wide FOB at Jhalida Station in Muri-Kotshila Section, Construction of Boundary wall at approaches of Ranchi, Namkom & Tatisilwai stations to prevent trespassing & chances of encroachment and Construction of Community Hall at MURI Settlement in Ranchi division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 10,21,23,680.69. **EMD Value:** ₹ 20,42,500. **Tender closing date & time:** 28.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. **(PR-138)**

BOI Bank of India

Head Office, IT(Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HOIT.G&E@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

Selection of service provider for providing the Annual Maintenance Support (AMC) along with Facility Management Services (FMS) for Bank's Near Disaster Recovery Site (NDR).
vide Ref. No.: HO:IT(G&E):RFP: NDR:26-27:200 Dated: 30-04-2026
GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7493329 Dated 30-04-2026
The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website www.bankofindia.bank.in under "Tender" section & GeM portal. Subsequent changes if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of submission: 21.05.2026

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi

Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/T-744/2026-27/563 Dtd.06-05-2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, **VTU,** Belagavi, invites (two cover systems) e-tenders for the following work through e-procurement tendring mode. **Name of work: Tender for establishment of centre of Excellence in "Additive Manufacturing" at VTU Centre for Post Graduate Studies - VAIT, Muddenahalli.** Tender Pre-Bid Meeting **Date: 12-05-2026 at 11.00 a.m.** through online. Amount put to tender: **Rs.4,97,16,500/-.** EMD **Rs.7,45,800/-.** Last date for receipt of tender **20-05-2026 up to 2.30 p.m.** Date of opening of tender: **21-05-2026 at 4.00 p.m.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our **VTU** website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and e-procurement portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Belgavi/204/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PROJECT ORGANISATION

1	Tender Notice No. & Date	**Proj1MS_TWS_RE_2026-02, Dated: 05.05.2026**
2	Name of the work	Provision of Tower wagon sidings at PUU & SCT and provision of Mini IPS at 43 LC Gates over Madurai division and 02 LC Gates over Salem Division in connection with leftover Railway Electrification works
3	Tender value in Crores of Rupees	**₹ 5,77,25,858.25**
4	Bid Security (EMD) in Lakhs of Rupees	**₹ 11,54,500.00**
5	Validity offer	**60 days from the date of opening of tender**
6	Closing Date & Time	**29.05.2026, 15.00 hrs**
7	Period of completion	**09 (Nine) Months.**

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through **(www.ireps.gov.in).**

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / (Projects) / I / Chennai Egmore

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KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/COF/Final Price/1847/2026-27 Date: 07.05.2026

NEWS PAPER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Determination of Final Price in respect of Avverahalli Industrial Area (Dobaspet IV Phase), Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) hereby intimates the allottees of Avverahalli Industrial Area (Dobaspet IV Phase), Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka, that the KIAD Board in its 398th meeting held on 07.03.2026 has determined the final price of Avverahalli Industrial Area (Dobaspet IV Phase), Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka, as detailed below;

Sl. No.	Tentative Cost of Allotment per acre (Rs in lakhs)	Final Price determined per Acre (Rs in lakhs) (including Rs.14.50 lakhs per acre towards prorata cost of water supply scheme)	Final Price Difference in cost of land payable per acre (Rs in lakhs)
1	57.00 (allotted at development cost)	105.35	48.35
2	75.00 (Allotted to KASSIA at concessional rate of 50%)	128.00	53.00
3	150.00	241.50	91.50

All the allottees of Avverahalli Industrial Area (Dobaspet IV Phase) shall pay the final price difference in cost of land for the allotments made by the KIADB through RTGS/NEFT to the KIADB Bank Account mentioned below;

Beneficiary Name: **KIADB**, Bank Name: **Union Bank of India**, Branch Name/ Branch Code: **Race Course Road, Bengaluru**, Account Type: **Current Account**, Account No.: **510341000075865**, IFSC Code: **UBIN0930911.**

The amount of final price difference in cost of land payable shall be paid as detailed below;

1) If the difference in cost of land is paid within 6 months from the date of this notification, No interest shall be levied.

2) If the difference in cost of land is not paid within 6 months from the date of this notification, interest @5% p.a. shall be levied upto 6 months period and thereafter interest @10% p.a. shall be levied till the date of payment.

This paper notification shall be treated as Demand Notice from the KIADB.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer &
Executive Member

DIPR/CP/563/Zen/2026-27

OFFICE OF IMPROVEMENT TRUST BATHINDA

Portal: www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP

The auction of commercial property in **Blue Fox scheme** of Improvement Trust Bathinda will be conducted from **01-06-2026 to 03-06-2026** through E-auction system. Date of commencement / closing of registration for bidders and detailed information regarding properties to be sold through E-auction can be viewed on the online portal **www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP**. Commercial property is offered in this E-auction as per the following schedule: -

Date and time of commencement of registration for bidders	07-05-2026 Time 10:00 AM
Date and time of closing of registration for bidders	28-05-2026 Time 05:00 PM
Online Bid Commencement Date and Time	01-06-2026 Time 11:00 AM
Online bid closing date and time	03-06-2026 Time 05:00 PM

Note:-
1. The Bidder shall deposit the separate earnest money in respect of the said property.
2. If a court case or any dispute etc. arises regarding this property, the Chairman/Executive Officer shall reserve the right to withdraw the said property from the auction and reject the bid.
3. Conditions and other information regarding e-auction can be obtained from the office notice board / website www.tendenvizard.com/DLGP and phone number 0164-3558725 during office working hours.

Sd/-
(Jatinder Singh Bhalla)
Chairman
Improvement Trust Bathinda

DPR/Pb.:3898/12/2026-27/11205

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂ: 08227–261232
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_tnarasipura@yahoo.com, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.tmarasipuratown.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸ/ಟನಪುರ/ಇ.ಕಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/02/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ನಿಯಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08227–261232 ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	Providing Master Helath Chekcup for Pourakarmika's, Sanitary workers and Drivers Working in TMC T.Narasipura. **Indent No: DMA/2026-27/SE7774**	2.50	6,250.00
2.	Supply of Loaders and Cleaners on Outsource Basis for Health Section of TMC T.Narasipura **Indent No: DMA/2026-27/SE7775.**	26.20	52,400.00
3.	Manpower on Outsource basis for SWM plant, MRF plant and Dog Shelter of TMC T Narasipura **Indent No: DMA/2026-27/SE7777.**	27.67	55,400.00
4.	Supply, Installation and commissioning of 35mm and 4 mm trommel of 30 TPD capacity to Town Municipal Council, T Narasipura. **Indent No: DMA/2025-26/IND5145/CALL-2.**	65.00	1,30,000.00

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ. ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ

DIPR/MYS/147/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the State Mission Director,
Swachh Bharath Mission (Urban) Bengaluru.
10th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001.
Telephone: 080- 22867172 / 22866302, Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665
Email: swmcelldma@gmail.com.

No: 1267569/DMA/SWM/SBM/47/2023 Date: 07.05.2026

Short term Tender Notification-3rd call

Manpower services required for the office of the State Mission Director, Swachh Bharath Mission(Urban), will be procured through Outsourcing. Accordingly, Indent No. DMA/2025-26/SE6051/CALL-3 has been published on the KPP Portal in K/C-8 document under the two-cover system, in accordance with the KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000. Interested qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date specified on the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained only through the KPP portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/562/Zen/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resource Department)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, UKP, Rehabilitation Division No.4,Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

No.UKP/EE/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/Tdr-1/2026-27/110 Date: 07-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (4rd Call) (THROUGH KPPP)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, Lump sum tenders are invited for **Providing Human Service On Outsource basis** from eligible contractors pertaining to **Indent No.0021 Rs: 140.23 lakhs and Indent No.0017 Rs: 102.02 lakhs in two cover system.** The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is **21-05-2026** up to **5.30pm.** Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and from this office in working hours.

Special Note: **1)** Contractor shall quote the total service charge required for one year in Rupees (INR) only.
2) For all contractors/representatives it is compulsory to attend the scheduled pre bid meeting.
3) Contractors to note all amendments & modifications time to time in E-procurement platform.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
UKP, Reh.Divn.No.4 Bilagi,
Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

DIPR/Bgk/6/20/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

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CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, # 29, Vijayanagara, 2nd Stage, Hinkal, Mysuru – 570017
CIN: -U40109KA2004SGC035177

No.:CESC/AHR/TRN/11/2026-TRNG/2696 Date: 30-04-2026

NOTIFICATION

Invites Application (Only through Online) from Engineering Graduates/Non-Engineering Graduates/ Diploma holders in Engineering passed in the year 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 for Apprenticeship Training for the year 2026 - 2027.

Sl. No	Category of Apprenticeship	Branch	No. of Apprentice	Monthly Stipend (Rs.)	Duration
1	Engineering Graduate Apprenticeship	Electrical & Electronics Engineering	78	12,300/-	One Year
		Civil Engineering	02		
	TOTAL		80		
2	Diploma Apprenticeship	Electrical & Electronics Engineering	53	10,900/-	
		Civil Engineering	02		
	TOTAL		55		
3	Non-Engineering Graduate Apprenticeship	B.Com	30	12,300/-	
		B.B.A	10		
		B.C.A	10		
		B.A	07		
		B.Sc.	08		
	TOTAL		65		
	GRAND TOTAL		200		

IMPORTANTDATES

Sl.No	Particulars	Date
1	Opening Date for Online Application	08.05.2026
2	Last date for applying to "CESC" in NATS Portal	29.05.2026

For further details please visit **https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in (Notifications/ Notifications 2026-27/ Click here)**

Sd/- General Manager (A&HR), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru-570017

DIPR/MYSORE/01/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to develop the properties described in Item Nos. 1 to 4 of the Schedule hereunder ("Schedule Property") under a scheme of joint development with its respective owners specified in the Schedule hereunder. The said persons have represented to our client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with uninhibited rights of alienation over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within seven (7) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections to the development and sale thereof by our client jointly with the owners specified hereunder.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands as specified in the table below, totally measuring 5 Acres 23 Guntas, situated in Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District:

No.	Survey Number	Extent	Name of the Owner	Boundaries			
				East	West	North	South
01.	6/3	10 Guntas	Smt. Neelamma, wife of Shri. Narayanaswamy	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 7/4 & 7/3	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 4/1 & 4/2	Property described in Item No. 2 hereunder	Land bearing Survey No. 6/2
		10 Guntas	Smt. Gowramma, wife of Shri. Manjanna				
02.	6/4	1 Acre 20 Guntas	Shri. Ramanjinappa, son of Shri. Narayanappa	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 7/4 & 150	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 4/1, 4/4 & 4/5	Property described in Item No. 3 hereunder	Property described in Item No. 1 herein above
03.	165	11½ Guntas	Shri. Ramanjinappa, son of Shri. Narayanappa	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 131, 152, 151, 132 & 150	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 208 & 104	Property described in Item No. 4 hereunder	Property described in Item No. 2 herein above
		12 Guntas	Shri. Venkatesh, son of Shri. Narayanappa				
		1 Acre 31½ Guntas	Smt. Shailaja, wife of Late Shivappa				
04.	166	1 Acre 8 Guntas	Shri. Venkatesh, son of Shri. Narayanappa	Land bearing Survey No. 131	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 167 & 208	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 164 & 104	Property described in Item No. 3 herein above & lands bearing Survey Nos. 167 & 208

Sd/- Prashant Shenoi, Partner
Allied Law Practices, Advocates
1/1, Level 3, Millers Arcade, Millers Road, Vasanth Nagar,
Bangalore - 560 001. **Tel :+91 (080) 2222 0003**

Place : Bengaluru
Date: May 8th, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that I have been engaged by my client to investigate the title relating to all that piece and parcel of agricultural, undeveloped and vacant land measuring 20 Guntas in Sy. No. 7/7, 22 Guntas (out of 28 Guntas) in Sy. No. 7/8, 3 Guntas in 7/11, 30 Guntas in Sy. No. 14/2, 2 Guntas in 14/7, 12 Guntas in 16/7, 13 Guntas in Sy. No. 16/8, and 16.08 Guntas in Sy. No. 16/12, all situated at Gollahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, more fully set out in the Schedule hereto and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property."

If any person has any right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or, has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered or unregistered) with the Owners or predecessors in title of the Schedule Property, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, are called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received, we would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof and we will issue our opinion confirming that the owner has title in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural, undeveloped and vacant lands situated at Gollahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, which are more fully described in the schedule herein below;

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries				Owners
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South	
1.	7/7	0	20	Land in Sy. No. 7/6	Land in Sy. No. 14/7 & 16/11	Land in Sy. No. 7/2	Land in Sy. No. 7/11 & 7/8	Mrs. S. Savithri, W/o late Mr. S. Satya Murthy, Mr. S. Keshav Murthy, S/o. late Mr. Srinivasan, Mrs. Dharani. K., W/o. Mr. Keshav Murthy, Mr. S. Devaraj, S/o. late Mr. Srinivasan, Mrs. Sumathi, W/o. Mr. S. Devaraj, Mr. S. Dayashankar, S/o. late Mr. Srinivasan, and Mrs. S. Roopa, W/o. Mr. S. Dayashankar.
2.	7/8	0	22 (out of 28 Guntas)	Remaining portion in Sy. No. 7/8	Land in Sy. No. 7/11	Land in Sy. No. 7/7 and 7/6	Land in Sy. No. 7/9	Mr. Ramakrishnaiah, S/o. late Venkatachalam.
3.	7/11	0	3	Land in Sy. No. 7/8 and 7/9	Land in Sy. No. 14/2	Land in Sy. No. 7/7	Land in Sy. No. 7/9	Legal heirs of Balappa, and Indrani, D/o. Late Venkatachalam.
4.	14/2	0	30	Land in Sy. No. 7/11 and 14/7	Land in Sy. No. 14/1	Land in Sy. No. 16/18 and 14/7	Land in Sy. No. 14/4, 14/5 and 14/6	Mr. Ramachandra, S/o. Late Balappa, Mr. Gopal B., S/o Late Balappa, Mr. Lakshminarayana B., S/o. Late Balappa, and Mr. Srinivas, S/o. Late Balappa.
5.	14/7	0	2	Land in Sy. No. 7/7	Land in Sy. No. 14/2	Land in Sy. No. 16/11	Land in Sy. No. 14/2	Mr. Muniraju, S/o. Mr. Anand.
6.	16/7	0	12	Land in Sy. No. 16/8	Land in Sy. No. 16/12	Land in Sy. No. 16/5	Land in Sy. No. 14/1.	Mr. Ramachandra, S/o. Late Balappa, Mr. Gopal B., S/o Late Balappa, Mr. Lakshminarayana B., S/o. Late Balappa, and Mr. Srinivas, S/o. Late Balappa.
7.	16/8	0	13	Land in Sy. No. 16/10 and 16/11	Land in Sy. No. 16/7	Land in Sy. No. 16/5 and 16/9	Land in Sy. No. 14/2	Mr. Ramachandra, S/o. Late Balappa, Mr. Gopal B., S/o Late Balappa.
8.	16/12	0	16.08	Land in Sy. No. 16/7	Land in Sy. No. 16/6 and Road.	Land in Sy. No. 16/19	Land in Sy. No. 14/8.	Mrs. T. Vijaykumari, W/o. A. Narayana Swamy

Date: 08.05.2026, Bangalore

Gerald Manoharan, Partner, JSA Advocates and Solicitors, 17th & 18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru-560025. Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503610, Email – gerald@jsalaw.com

FORM G

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ECSTASY REALTY PRIVATE LIMITED OPERATING IN REAL ESTATE SECTOR IN MUMBAI

(Under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 36A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

Sl.	RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1	Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/ CIN/ LLP No.	**ECSTASY REALTY PRVIATE LIMITED CIN- U65990MH1992PTC064890 PAN- AAACE1246P**
2	Address of the registered office	UNT NO - 2, 4TH FLOOR, A WING, TIME SQUARE BUILDING, ANDHERI KURLA ROAD, MAROL NILKANTH PARK, ANDHERI (E), MUMBAI, Marol Naka, Mumbai – 400059, Maharashtra.
3	URL of website	N.A
4	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	Plot of Land admeasuring 10,293.51 Sq. Mtrs, CTS No. 866/B-2, Versova Road (JP Road), Four Bungalows, Andheri (West), Mumbai – 400053. **(Phase-I fully developed in the name of the Project "PARTHENON")**
5	Installed capacity of main products/services	N.A
6	Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	N.A
7	Number of employees/ workmen	As per the information provided by Erstwhile management, all employees/workmen resigned prior to CIRP initiation date except one who has also sent his resignation during CIRP period.
8	Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL:	URL: http://arck.in, under the case list "Ecstasy Realty Private Limited"
9	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at URL:	***Category A - For PRAs that are Corporates-Private/ Public Limited Company, LLP, Body Corporate whether incorporated in India or outside India/ Individual Investor/ Consortium of Individual Investors, HUFs, Family Trusts and Partnership Firms:*** Minimum Standalone Net worth (NW) of Rs. 400 crores in the immediately preceding completed financial year (not prior to 31 March 2025) based on audited financial statements of the applicant entity or Minimum Tangible Net Worth ('TNW') of Rs. 400 crores at the Group Consortium Level in the immediately preceding completed financial year (not prior to 31 March 2025) based on audited financial statements of the participating entities of the applicant, Family Trusts and Partnership Firms or/and latest Certificate of Net worth by practicing CA/CS not prior to March 31, 2025 in case of Individual Investor/ Consortium of Individual Investors, HUFs. ***Category B - For PRAs that are Financial Investors – Banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Asset Reconstruction Companies, Mutual Funds, Private Equity Funds, Sovereign Funds, Venture Capital Funds, Alternate Investment Funds, Investment Companies and/or Entities (including domestic or foreign institutional / portfolio investors) and similar entities:*** Minimum Assets Under Management ("AUM") or funds deployed of INR 500 crores in the immediately preceding completed financial year (not prior to March 31, 2025) or on the date which is atleast 30 days prior to the date of submission of the EOI, based on audited financial statements; or Committed funds ("Committed Funds") available for investment/deployment in Indian companies or Indian assets of at least INR 500 crores on the date which is atleast 30 days prior to the date of submission of the EOI. *The Resolution Applicant must be eligible under Section 29A of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016*
10	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	23rd May, 2026
11	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	02nd June, 2026
12	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	07th June, 2026
13	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	09th June, 2026
14	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	09th June, 2026
15	Last date for submission of resolution plans	09th July, 2026
16	Process email id to submit Expression of Interest	**ibc.ecstasyrealty@gmail.com**
17	Details of the Corporate Debtor's registration status as MSME	UDYAM- MH- 18-0421981

Sd/-
Anil Kohli,
Designated Partner & Authorized signatory of IPE registered as IP
ARCK Resolution Professionals LLP acting as Resolution Professional
in the matter of M/s. Ecstasy Realty Private Limited
Reg No.: IBBI/IPE-0030/IPA-1/2022-23/50013
AFA Valid upto 31.12.2026
409, Ansal Bhawan, 16 K.G. Marg (Connaught Place), New Delhi - 110001
Date: 08th May, 2026 Ph.: No. : 011-40078344, 45101111
Place: Mumbai Email: ibc.ecstasyrealty@gmail.com, insolvency@arck.in

ANNA UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI - 600 025

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION - M.SC. PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to M.Sc. (2 Year) in Mathematics / Materials Science / Medical Physics / Applied Chemistry / Applied Geology / Electronic Media and M.Sc. (5 year Integrated) in Computer Science / Electronic Media under General, Non-Resident Indians **(NRI)**, Children of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries **(CIWGC)**, Foreign Nationals **(FN)**, Nationals of Least Developed Countries **(LDC)** & Small Island Developing Countries **(SIDS)** and Consortium of Industries **(COI)** categories, offered in College of Engineering Guindy (CEG) campus, Anna University Chennai for the Academic Year 2026–2027.

Last date for online submissions of application : 28.05.2026

The details related to programmes, application fee, eligibility etc., are available in **www.annauniv.edu**

Candidates can submit the application through **"ONLINE"** only.

DIPR/348/Display/2026 **REGISTRAR i/c**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/172/2026 Dated : 27-02-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
RFP for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line between Chainage 90000 and Chainage 130375 (40.375 km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical General Services between Hiriyur (HIRYR) (Incl.) & Palavvanahalli (PLVHL) (Incl.) stations and Extension of various bridges (Civil works) between Palavvanahalli (PLVHL) (Excl.) & Chitradurga (CTA) (Excl) stations (Chainage 130375 to Chainage 140490 (10.115 km)) in Tumakuru-Chitradurga Davangere New Line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-DVG-EPC-05)**	Rs. 7,82,76,56,049/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Modified**
13-05-2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	**26-05-2026 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/99/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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Last date of application submission is 8th June 2026.

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

6th, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 92/TD/2026 **Dated: 4.5.2026**

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)

An application for the grant of a Category-IV licence for inter-State trading in electricity across India has been made before the Commission by **EKI Energy Service Limited**, 325-C, Prem Trade Centre, Opposite Gujarati Girls College, Maharani Road, Indore - 452007.

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to **EKI Energy Service Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.enkingint.org or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that *prima facie* the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 4.5.2026, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-IV licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity across India.
4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by **18.5.2026** at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.
5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on **19.5.2026** and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 5th Call Tender Notification No:12/ 2025-26: Dated: 02.05.2026
Ref : 1) EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ Tender Notification No:12/ 2025-26: Dated: 14.10.2025
2) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 12/2025-26: Dated: 25.11.2025
3) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No:12/ 2025-26: Dated: 28.01.2026
4) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 4th Call Tender Notification No:12/ 2025-26: Dated: 23.03.2026

Tender Notification-Call-5
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.523.46 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.7.86 Lakhs** (by kpp portal) (Rs.1.00 lakh e-cash balance amt e-BG Rs.6.86 lakhs) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **06.05.2026 to 21.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **22.05.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd:**18.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 12 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-15-05/ zenkar/2026-27

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BJP's Bengal Job

Voters' first expectation is that the winning party breaks the state's cycle of political violence

Bengal's long and grim tradition of post-poll violence is on display again. The murder of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Madhyamgram, is the darkest shadow so far. Across the state, incidents of arson and vandalism targeted Trinamool offices in Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol, Siliguri and Baruipur. In Birbhum, a Trinamool worker was hacked to death; in Howrah, a BJP activist was lynched. The familiar machinery of political terror has begun to whirr again.

Yet, by Bengal's own troubling standards, this election has seen comparatively less violence. A major reason has been the unprecedented deployment of central security forces, whose presence clearly acted as a deterrent in several sensitive areas. But reduced violence cannot be mistaken for normalcy. The incoming govt cannot afford complacency, because Bengal's electorate has signalled exhaustion with precisely this culture of intimidation and bloodletting.

Political violence in Bengal did not begin with the current dispensation. Congress govts presided over it, Left Front institutionalised it, and Trinamool inherited and refined the system. During Mamata Banerjee's early years in power, the phrase "Lal-Trinamool" entered Bengal's political vocabulary, to describe local Left strongmen, who seamlessly shifted loyalties to the then governing party. Ideology changed; muscle power remained. Over decades, this ecosystem of patronage, extortion, and territorial dominance hollowed out democratic culture in the state.

That is why any promise of "poriborton" cannot remain a slogan. If BJP intends to present itself as an alternative, it must first ensure that revenge attacks by its own supporters are stopped immediately. Swift action against those involved in retaliatory violence is essential, not only to restore order, but also to establish the moral authority needed to act against criminal elements across party lines. Bengal has suffered too long under the syndicate raj, and the localised reign of political strongmen, who control contracts and access to basic civic life.

Stakes are even higher because this election witnessed intense religious polarisation. In Bengal, the distance between political violence and communal violence can become dangerously short. Given Bangladesh's internal instability and concerns over growing extremist networks in the region, any communal flare-up would carry consequences far beyond state politics. Bengal's voters have delivered a clear message: they want an end to violence as a political language. The next govt must finally break that cycle, before today's embers become tomorrow's inferno.

One Nation, One Exam

Sounds like a good idea, until National Testing Agency makes candidates run across states to write it

Like China's Gaokao, India's CUET-UG is a ticket to some of the country's best universities. With standardised tests and scores, it levels the playing field – somewhat – for students in, say, Darbhanga and Delhi. But from its beginning in 2022, it's been plagued with niggles. Last-minute exam centre changes had locked out many candidates in the first edition. This time, there's a controversy because students have been assigned centres hundreds of kilometres from home. NTA, which conducts the exam, says a minuscule 3.4% of candidates are affected. In absolute numbers, that's 53,000 lives. NTA argues this has happened because it doesn't have enough testing centres in Delhi, UP and Bihar, which are home to 43% of candidates. But who's to blame for that? Not the candidates and their families.

The whole point of a centralised entrance test is that you can take it, without travelling to all the different cities where your preferred universities are located. NTA shouldn't undermine that principle. In China, Gaokao candidates must take the test in their home province. In 2024, when a panel made 101 recommendations to improve NTA, assigning testing centres in a candidate's district of residence was one. It was also part of NTA's founding philosophy – "to serve requirements of rural students…locate centres at sub-district and district level".

In 2024's LS polls, officials travelled for seven hours to Warshi in Ladakh, so that a family of five could vote. NTA has to work the same way, bringing testing centres to candidates, rather than making them run around. How? Tie up with more schools and colleges – they are anyway closed in summer when CUET-UG and other entrance tests are held. There's no dearth of buildings and seats; what's needed is investment in hardware. NTA should do that, because that's its job.

Dadi's gift

She left all of us a priceless legacy – together with an equally great responsibility

Jug Suraiya

She was Dadi to all those fortunate enough to know her. Bunny and I were lucky in that we got to meet her shortly after we moved from Calcutta to Delhi.

Bunny and I came to Delhi as economic refugees in search of better jobs. But after the comradely informality of Calcutta we found Delhi to be a city of crass snobbery where your social status was determined by what part of the city you lived in, and how many high-up contacts you had, and how many strings they could pull for you.

Then, by great good chance, we happened to come across the elder of Dadi's two sons, both inheritors of her boundless generosity of heart and spirit, thanks to which we found ourselves regular guests at get-togethers in their family home, a celebrated salon of industrial tycoons, and movers and shakers, eloquent writers and opinion-makers.

At the centre of this glittering galaxy was Dadi, in an immaculate white sari, joining in the many conversations with characteristic wit and humour, her gentle smile impervious to guests' solecisms of speech or manner, or the preening of the peacock feathers of vanity.

jugular*vein*

Her innate gift, which she unstintingly bestowed on all she met, was that of a genuinely affectionate welcome. But, in 1947, the greatest gift she helped to give to 340mn of her fellow Indians, a number that has since swelled to a billion and a half, was the priceless gift of freedom from the yoke of colonialism.

Born into a freedom fighter family, she early joined the struggle for Independence and was jailed at the age of 13 for three years, chanting defiance at her captors.

The years in prison forged the mettle of her character to withstand the tumult and upheavals attendant on a long, fulfilled, and fulfilling life, which she recently departed with the same unobtrusive quietness as she would her son's get-togethers.

The legacy of a Swaraj she helped to win endures for us, along with our responsibility to live up to it and preserve and protect it. That would be the best tribute we could pay to Dadi.

***Conflict & Consumers**: Desi consumption will hold ground, because non-rich still want to spend. But our airlines won't make it minus a govt rethink on what flying means for ordinary Indians*

War Or Not, There'll Always Be Cake

Shinjini Kumar

South Mumbai has lately started to feel a little – backward, so to speak, because the traffic moves. Jokes apart, last weekend, crossing Colaba Causeway, to get to a dinner, felt like the good old days. Long queues outside pubs, people out on the streets, buying or haggling, and cars, barely moving.

It felt incongruous considering it is this very crowd that woke up reading or scrolling through headlines, about a global war, threatening to shut down our kitchens, and burn down the optimism of policymakers taking credit for the Indian economy. An economy that has lumbered up its ungainly weight on global rankings. I wondered if everyone had already told themselves, "There is not much time left to live, let's get that sushi."

Much of India's growth story feels like a manifestation. We shall be, therefore we are. We may not appear ideal, but ask the middle-class Indian who transitioned from the frugal 1980s to the abundance of biryani delivery, enough to fill eight Qutub Minars. It is not that the road has been any less bumpy than our roads every monsoon, but when middle-class and urban growth get sluggish, *revdi* economy supplies the demand.

And the celebrated jugaad model of commerce comes in handy to swing and serve any segment that can pay. If nothing else, cricket team auctions, equal to the size of small states' annual budgets, make for happy headlines.

While we are still waiting to feel the impact of trickle-down economics on large-scale employment, there is a perverse version of trickle-up economics in place.

Riding on the infra of low-cost data and digital access, the vast population is contributing to the economy, eventually manifesting in green tickers and unicorn valuations.

It is somewhat obvious, but let me paint the picture. Travelling through 30 Tier 2 cities across India, I saw this story up close. I call it 'cake at the last mile'. Coming out of childhoods where most Indians had not seen cakes, colour photographs, white goods or sanitary napkins, people have taken to consumerism like the proverbial fish to water.

Most of what we choose to spend on are iterations of 'roti, kapda, makan'. But, ground reality is, 'let them have cake' is no more a tragic cry. It is something every middle-class mother declares at every pitstop of the vast celebration economy.

Whether they be of almond flour or some slop slathered with vegetable fat, there is a cake for every occasion – from the fancy Bandra bakery to the little shop in Birauli, near my village. E-commerce apps ensure that rip-off fashion can be affordably delivered at the doorstep of every girl, to enhance her ephemeral good looks and vanity. Their brothers also have access to F&O trading, cricket betting, crypto or pornography.

We have added impressive physical infra and financial access, so *aam nagrik* can fly, and own a vehicle. The rural economy, and the delivery economy, are two-wheeling, mostly on vehicles bought with EMIs. Add travel. Discretionary or non-discretionary, boutique or budget, pilgrim, solo or in gregarious littering gangs, bucket lists, honeymoons or just oldies setting new endurance records.

To this, add gyms, parlours, spas, ayahs, doulas, security guards, chauffeurs, cooks, tuition teachers, home managers, secretaries, wedding planners, event managers and such like, and you have cornered a material chunk of the 55% share of GDP that comes from services.

So, what gives, with impending inflation and higher costs? Typically, when a crisis looms large, we, the sanguine people of India, start believing we are relatively better off.

We will get oil from Russia, the war will be over, we have survived, we have democracy, we have leadership and so on. It is also true that our large informal sector, and a parallel economy, slow down transmission. Further, populist policies kick in to cushion impact.

Yet, for these very same reasons, a slowdown based on behavioural shifts, and not just liquidity disruptions, will be harder to recover from.

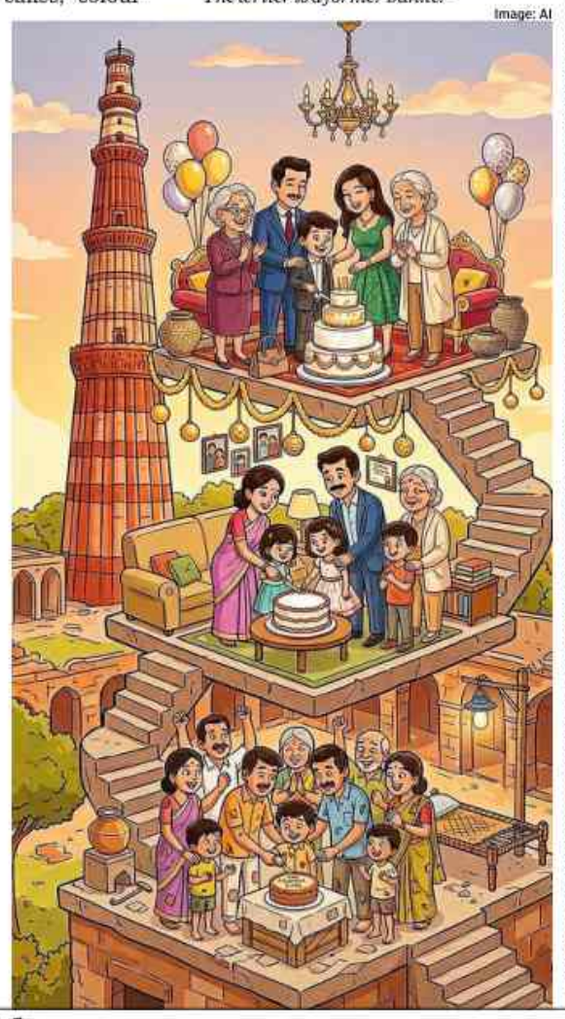
On the positive side, there is something to be said for our resilience. Recall the mass migration, when the pandemic hit, to native villages, where migrants were mostly welcomed to share the meagre resources of their brethren. Similarly, just as indulgent Indians can get influenced to buy Korean facials, they can be quick to return to coconut oil, when push comes to shove.

If the war lasts, and inflation combines with the already detrimental effects on employment from AI and our jobless growth model, what will get tested will be the new generation's 'Indian-ness'.

It will test the stickiness of what reflects today in declining savings and increasing financial liabilities data for Indian households. It will also test our generational values succinctly summarised in, '*teti paon pasariye, jeti laambi saur*' – 'stretch your legs as far as the quilt allows', the desi version of 'cut your coat according to your cloth'.

The writer is a former banker

Image: AI



On ATF, Don't Miss The Plane Truth

Anupam Manur

On Tuesday, the cabinet approved a ₹5,000cr Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for airlines. This is the clearest signal, so far, that Indian aviation is in trouble. Indian carriers were not, anyway, having an easy run since the IndiGo crisis last Dec. War in Iran has compounded that misery.

An industry pleading for tax cuts and govt support is hardly novel. But a recent letter from the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) to civil aviation ministry, carries both genuine desperation and a partially credible threat. Current pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), FIA warns, will result in insurmountable losses, and "grounding of aircraft, resulting in cancellations of flights". The crack spread, which is the gap between crude prices and the final price of ATF, has widened to $132 per barrel, according to FIA. So, fuel now accounts for nearly 60% of airline operating costs, up from the historical 35-40%.

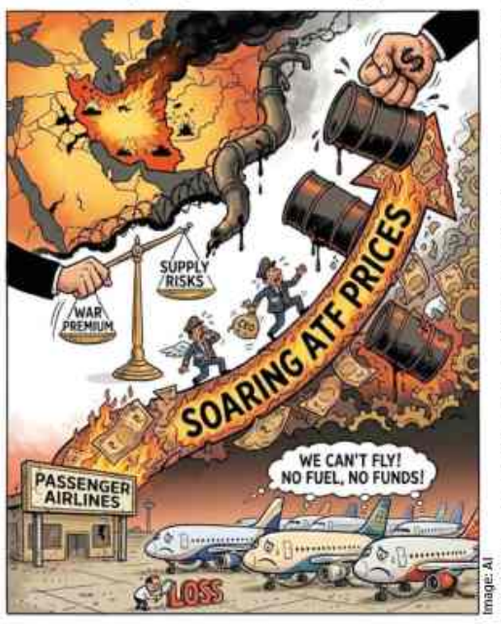


Image: AI

Yet, what FIA seeks in the form of temporary duty waivers, or a reinstated crack band (a mechanism that caps refining margins within a defined range), or the approved emergency credit lines, are not silver bullets. They merely suppress symptoms.

Disease lies deeper, in a tangle of govt interventions that have left Indian aviation structurally fragile, long before the Hormuz shock arrived. While global oil prices are beyond India's control, their shock is amplified domestically by a series of policy choices, which demand correction.

- First problem is in the market structure for ATF, where three OMCs (oil marketing companies IOC, BPCL, HPCL) control 100% of ATF supply at Indian airports. Sure, the current crack spread is driven by the Hormuz disruption. But on top of that, OMCs add their own marketing margin, historically around 21%, over which Indian airlines have no negotiating leverage, as there is no competition.

OMCs also revise prices on the same days of the month, a pattern that looks collusive, but is better described as price coordination by structural design, rather than conspiracy.

Before we rush to vilify OMCs, note that they are not free agents either. As state-owned entities, they are routinely asked to hold petrol, diesel, and LPG prices below cost, during politically sensitive periods. Today, they are losing roughly ₹14 per litre on petrol and ₹18 per litre on diesel, and more on LPG. Some part of this is recouped through margins on industrial products like ATF, where there is no political constituency to defend.

Indian aviation, in effect, helps subsidise India's retail fuel populism. The solution here is to free up OMCs on pricing retail products, which will reduce the pressure to extract compensatory revenue from ATF. Longer-term solution is to introduce competition in the market, by bringing in private players to supply ATF.

- Second problem is rooted in absurdity. India produces more ATF than it consumes, exports half of it, and prices the rest as if it were imported as a finished product. Since 2002, ATF has been priced on an import-parity basis, including notional freight from the Gulf and customs duty and cess, adding roughly 10% to the cost. This pricing principle has no rational basis, and should be scrapped.

- Third problem is a mathematical one, and an important reason why Indian airlines pay much more for fuel than their foreign counterparts. India levies 11% ad valorem (percentage of price) excise duty. So, if the base price of crude jumps up, the tax burden increases along with the price increase, even though quantity remains the same.

In most other countries, taxes on ATF are a flat rate per gallon instead. In US, for instance, federal excise tax on jet fuel is a fixed cents-per-gallon amount, so when crude prices spike, the tax portion stays constant. Many other countries, such as Gulf states and Singapore, have zero taxes on ATF. If India has ambitions of becoming a transport and aviation hub, it must move towards a flat and low rate of taxes on ATF.

- Fourth problem has a political-economy flavour to it. ATF, along with other crude oil-based products, was kept outside the purview of GST in 2017, because states refused to surrender their VAT revenue. This has also resulted in a fragmented VAT architecture, with different VAT rates in different states. VAT on ATF ranges from 1% in some states, to 29% in Tamil Nadu. This wide range distorts route economics, and encourages airlines to fuel up in low VAT states.

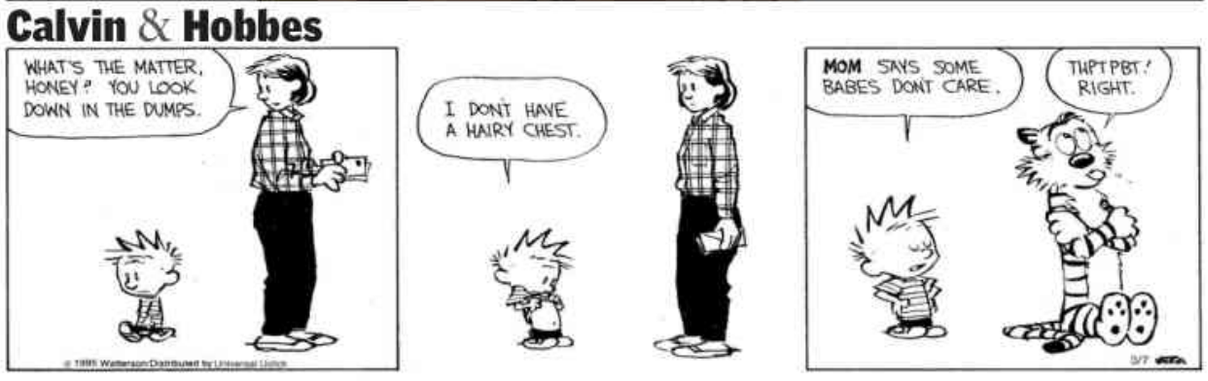
Due to all of this, FIA has long maintained that Indian airlines pay nearly 65% more for ATF than their foreign counterparts, which is a structural disadvantage. Bringing ATF under GST, a topic that was discussed and summarily shelved at the 45th GST Council meeting in 2021, deserves a fresh push.

- Also, Indian airlines are not blameless either. Carriers globally use financial hedging, which involves locking in fuel prices months or years ahead through forward contracts, to insulate themselves from sudden price spikes. Major European airlines typically hedge 50-80% of their forward fuel needs. Indian carriers hedge a fraction of that, often less than 5%. Some of this is strategic choice: hedging, like all insurance, carries a premium that looks wasteful in calm times. But part of it is regulatory friction, with RBI's commodity hedging framework being cumbersome for airlines to navigate. So, when a crisis arrives, they are left vulnerable.

The time has come for GOI to change its conception of air travel as a luxury good, consumed solely by the rich, which is what drives its extractive and rapacious tax structure. Govt owns the OMCs that profit from high spreads, and taxes the airlines that suffer from these. As a growing and aspirational nation, which has schemes such as UDAN, it is time to design policies that allow *aam nagrik* to fly easily. This won't be possible as long as we see aviation as a cash cow.

The writer is professor of economics at Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

When i find myself in times of trouble. Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

Paul McCartney

The Art Of Blossoming Where You Are

Swami Chinmayananda

A spiritual seeker should not try to run away in the very beginning but must court life and plunge into its centre, taking life as it comes – good, bad, or indifferent – and learn to balance himself despite all imperfections in a situation.

To understand why life must be thus faced, we must recognise that the Eternal Law provides each one of us with situations and occasions to enjoy or suffer strictly according to, and in continuation of, our past. Nothing happens in fits and starts. There are no accidents in the Eternal Law. Moment-to-moment life is progressive, continual, and logical.

Seen in this light, a family, a brother, and so on are pieces set up around us to give us a definite chosen experience, conducive to our progress. Often, we are tempted to run away from our given duties, saying, "I was mistakenly placed in this situation." But environments are not thrust upon us by blind fate. To protest or weep against them is useless. Each should pursue his life in the field where the omniscient Lord has placed him, because He knows exactly what is needed for our unfoldment.

Therefore, we must perform our obligatory duties fully. As long as an individual, as a member of society, enjoys a social life, demanding protection and profit, he has no right to abandon his duties. We do not live alone; we are gregarious. We have not only duties to ourselves, but towards the family, relations, community, nation, and world. Let each one fulfil them in a spirit of unattachment, joy, and dedication.

In this spirit, let a person stay where he is stationed and placed in life, according to his psychological texture, and proceed with the work assigned to him, the duties enjoined according to his qualifications and nature. Doing thus, he serves the higher cause.

THE SPEAKING TREE

What is to be avoided is not the world outside. In a rising tide of disgust at failure, people often renounce in a hurry and run away from life. Such people come to live in regret, suffering mental agony arising out of their privations. This storm is in the mind, which they carry wherever they go. What has to be changed is the mind, not the environment.

Hence, take what life has given you as the Lord's gift – His *prasad*. He places us in the exact environment required to exhaust our tendencies. Don't ever dare question His wisdom. Be thankful for what you have. Stop craving for what you have not. You will get what you deserve; you may not get what you desire.

Fall in love with life, not the things and beings in your life. Be in love with living. Don't be satisfied with a superficial life of mere sense pleasures. Search for treasures beneath the world of thoughts. Build for yourself a temple of peace that no man can take, no power can destroy. By learning to respond positively to the world, we discover the secret of living in peace with it.

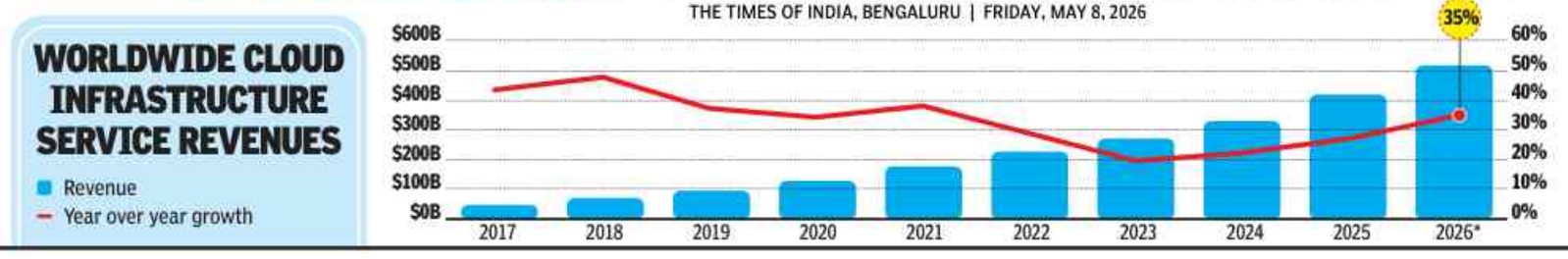
Thus, with life in harmony, find your joy in yourself – exactly where you are now.

The writer is founder of Chinmaya Mission. This year marks the Mission's 75th anniversary

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

Cloud infrastructure service revenues surged by $90 billion to $419bn last year—nearly 9x higher than in 2017. After a gradual slowdown to below 20% in 2023, the global cloud market picked up pace last year, growing at a rate of 27%. Momentum continued into Q1 2026, with growth accelerating to 35%, setting the stage for the market to surpass $500bn this year



Source: Synergy Research Group

For desi AI startups, Valley is new base camp

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Bengaluru: For Indian AI founders targeting global markets, venture capital firms are increasingly pushing a clear message: move closer to the US market early. What was once an optional expansion step during the SaaS era is now becoming a core part of the AI startup playbook, as investors believe founders need to be physically present in San Francisco to stay close to customers, capital, talent, and rapidly evolving AI product trends.

"Earlier, SaaS founders would build from India and only start spending time in the US much later. Now, that shift is happening much earlier," said Sumangal Vinjamuri, vice-president at Blume Ventures. He said founders building for North America increasingly need to be based there full-time much earlier in their journey.

WHY FOUNDERS ARE FLYING WEST

EARLIER US SHIFT IN AI ERA: Investors say founders are moving to the US much earlier than in SaaS-era

PROXIMITY DRIVES OUTCOMES: Being in San Francisco improves access to customers, capital and hiring networks

CLEARER PRICING SIGNALS: US customers show stronger willingness to pay, aiding monetisation and product-market fit

FACE TIME IMPROVES CONVERSIONS: Founders report in-person meetings build trust faster and close loops more effectively

BAY AREA REMAINS AI HUB: Talent, capital and cutting-edge AI activity continue to cluster in the Valley

INDIA FOCUS STILL VIABLE: Startups targeting domestic markets can continue scaling effectively from India

VC firms are also adapting their support models around this shift. Blume is helping startups with go-to-market strategy, hiring, fundraising, and customer introductions in the US. Investors argue that being in the Valley is no longer only about sales access, but about getting sharper signals on product-market fit and monetisation. "US customers are much less budget sensitive and much more open to buy over-build. You get a much higher quality signal on monetisation potential," said Krishna Mehra of Elevation Capital.

For founders who have relocated, the difference is immediate. "My market is entirely in the US, so being here materially changed the quality of customer conversations," said Padam Kataria, co-founder of AI startup Ayden, who recently moved to San Francisco. "In-person interactions build trust much faster and increase the likelihood of actually closing the loop." He added that even unsuccessful meetings generate richer insights than remote calls.

Freshworks founder and Together Fund investor Girish Mathrubootham said the AI wave has fundamentally changed how startups should scale globally. "Today, I would advise at least one co-founder to either move to the US or spend significant time in the Valley, to have ears on the ground on how AI is evolving," he said. "In AI, being close to customers is one part, being close to what's happening in AI itself is equally critical."

Aakrit Vaish, founder of Haptik and investor at AI-focused fund Activate, said founders can no longer rely on hybrid operating models while building for US enterprises. "If you're building for the US, you either need to be very close to cutting-edge research or deeply embedded with customers — both are hard to do remotely," he said. At Antler, partner Nitin Sharma described this as an "epicentre effect", with talent, capital, and AI momentum clustering in the Bay Area. "For AI, that epicentre is the Bay Area right now," he said.

Investors say startups building for India can still scale effectively from home. But for AI founders chasing US enterprise customers, proximity is increasingly becoming a competitive advantage rather than a choice.

Infy moves US court to enforce $5 million award

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Bengaluru: Infosys has moved a US court seeking confirmation and enforcement of a $5 million arbitration award against US-based investment firm 777 Partners over unpaid consulting dues.

In a petition filed under the US Federal Arbitration Act and the New York Convention, Infosys asked the court to confirm a final arbitration consent award issued in April by the American Arbitration Association's International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). **TOI** has reviewed the petition.

According to the filing, 777 Partners engaged Infosys for consulting services during 2022 and 2023. The engagement began in June 2022 through a statement of work, which was later amended in Oct 2022 to revise deliverables and extend the project timeline through March 2023.

Under the agreement, the parties agreed to resolve disputes through arbitration. Infosys initiated arbitration proceedings against 777 Partners on Jan 5, 2024, alleging breach of contract. In May 2024, the ICDR appointed a three-member arbitral tribunal. On April 10, the tribunal issued an award in favour of Infosys pursuant to a settlement agreement between the parties.

On-demand help: Investors lift valuations, consumers unsure

Question Viability Over Poor Customer Service, Slot Issues

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Mumbai: After quick grocery, instant house help services space is the new hot pick for investors—valuations of platforms Snabbit and Pronto which allow consumers to book help for household chores starting at Rs 99 have doubled in a few months. India's home services market, pegged at over $60 billion, is today largely informal and investors are betting on the potential they see: if companies can provide reliable house help services to consumers in a market where maid absenteeism is the biggest pain point but willingness to spend is not an issue, it will work out over time.

"There is a huge market for house help already, which nobody has ever been able to organise," said Rohit Sood, partner at Bertelsmann India, which has backed Snabbit, adding that about 10% of the entire wallet spend on house help today is immediately available to capture by the platforms because of absenteeism. While the problem serves as an entry point, the challenge is that not many consumers are convinced they would want to use instant house help services other than as a temporary fix.

VALUATION DOUBLES WITHIN MONTHS

Startup	Funding (in $mn)	Valuation (in $mn)	Period
Pronto	25	100	March 2026
	20	200	May 2026
Snabbit	30	180	Oct 2025
	56	350-400	April 2026

Source: Companies, industry

Consumers' conundrum

Snabbit and Pronto's consumers are largely time-constrained urban young professionals and dual income families including with children, heavily dependent on house help for everyday chores, the firms said. For this cohort of consumers, the apps seem like a go-to option but lack of slot availability, higher charges after the first few bookings and poor customer service are among reasons many users do not find them to be viable in the long run. "There is a lot of hassle to get a confirmed booking because of the high demand and pre-booking slots every time requires planning. Also, they are costlier than regular maids," said Bengaluru-based Sarmistha Dutta, adding that the first few bookings on Snabbit and InstaHelp were for Rs 99, but then went up to Rs 170. The customer service is poor, said New Delhi-based Manthan Khakharia who didn't get any response from the Pronto team when his help arrived 1.5 hours later despite making more than a dozen calls. Then there is also a small consumer cohort such as bachelors, who wouldn't mind substituting maids with the apps.

The investor view

Investors love the business model. "The economics in this segment are pretty good. This can be a pretty profitable business at scale and that's a profile that we already like," said Sood, claiming that Snabbit has grown over 10 times in six months. They are of the view that while the first use case may stem from absenteeism, once consumers get used to the apps and like the service, they will come back for more. "Regular maids don't do a lot of ad hoc cleaning work. There can be new use cases like wardrobe shuffling, unpacking of bags. Already, a small subset of consumers are transitioning to the platforms," said Manish Advani, of Elevation Capital.

Anjali Sardana, founder & CEO at Pronto said that the top 1% of its customers book the platform 23 or more times a month and the top 10% do it at least nine times. "Urban consumers are increasingly seeking flexibility, reliability, and standardisation which on-demand platforms are well placed to offer," said a Snabbit spokesperson. In India, where house helps are largely recruited through word of mouth, trust will be key to the model's growth. Trust needs to be solved for by the brands, said Advani.

Revamp priority sector lending, says eco council

Focus Must Be On Original Goals Of Giving Credit To Small Farmers, Weaker Sections

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New Delhi: Just 7% or 63 districts in the country corner over 45% of the priority sector loans (PSL), given by banks totalling Rs 22.4 lakh crore, as the over 50-year-old govt initiative has failed to deliver loans for the poorest districts, the Economic Advisory Council to PM (EAC-PM) has said in its latest working paper, while calling for an overhaul of the policy. It has also suggested a possible reduction of the 40% target that banks are mandated to meet annually.

"On expected lines, most of advances to the priority sector have been extended to state capitals or important industrial districts. Underserved regions include Himalayan states, Northeastern states, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, parts of Madhya Pradesh (eastern region) and parts of Rajasthan," the paper authored by EAC–PM chairman Mahendra Dev noted as it examined the status and distribution of PSL, using RBI's district level quarterly data for 2020–2025.

The paper also said even large banks such as State Bank of India, which has the largest national footprint, have failed to meet the target in recent years and have resorted to buying PSL certificates from small finance banks. This indirect facility was introduced by RBI in 2016 to help mitigate profitability risks from PSLs by allowing banks to trade the fulfilment of priority sector obligations at a market determined rate, without trading the underlying asset or risk.

"The focus of PSLs should be changed from economic to social equity. Emphasis should be placed on its original goals of making credit available to small/marginal farmers, small scale industries, and weaker sections. Legacy inclusions in the definition of priority sector that are no longer relevant can be removed, and the overall target can be lowered. With these changes, banks will have more flexibility in allocating capital, while restoring emphasis on the social goals of PSL," the paper said.

It added that RBI's latest "disincentive framework" addressing the skewed lending, by weighing credit at 125% for underserved districts and 90% for well-served ones may backfire on national productivity as it forces capital diversion. "Diversion of credit may thus reduces TFP (total factor productivity) growth in districts that see an outflow of PSLs, without a commensurate increase in beneficiary districts."

It argued that merely releasing funds to districts with lowest PSL access may not be a desirable outcome and called for targeted interventions, such as infrastructure development and improving market access.

Govt may raise insurance cover under Jan Suraksha schemes

Mumbai: With the trio of Jan Suraksha schemes—Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)—completing 10 years this week, govt is looking at hiking the sum insured under these schemes.

"These three schemes are central to the country's vision for financial inclusion, with 57 crore adults being brought under them. If everything goes right, we are also likely to revise certain benefits," said M Nagaraju, secretary, Department of Financial Services.

Recently, a paper was circulated among insurers seeking implications of an increase in the sum insured to Rs 5 lakh. "We are doing a lot of scenario analysis—what is affordability, what is the cost, and what is the intermediation cost also. Once it is approved, we will know," said Nagaraju. TNN

Ola begins IPO process as FY25 revenue falls 42%

Bengaluru: Ola Consumer, formerly known as Ola Cabs, has initiated steps towards an initial public offering even as the company reported a sharp decline in revenue and a widening of losses in FY25. "The board of directors has provided approval for an Initial Public Offering (IPO)," the company said. ANI Technologies, the parent entity of Ola Consumer, reported a 42% fall in revenue to Rs 1,171 crore in FY25 from Rs 2,000 crore a year earlier. Net loss widened to Rs 662.4 crore from Rs 328.7 crore in FY24. TNN

Skyroot becomes India's first space-tech unicorn

Swati Bharadwaj & Asmita Dey | TNN

Hyderabad/ Mumbai: Skyroot Aerospace, which is gearing up to launch India's first private orbital rocket Vikram-1 into space, has become India's first space-tech unicorn with its latest funding round of around $60 million (Rs 568 crore) for a valuation of $1.1 billion.

With its second pre-series C funding round, Skyroot also becomes Hyderabad's second true blue unicorn after HR tech startup Darwinbox, which achieved this status in early 2022. The round was led by existing investors Sherpalo Ventures and GIC with participation from new investors like Blackrock managed funds, Playbook Partners and Shanghvi family office and existing ones like Greenko group founders and Arkam Ventures, among others.

With this latest round, Sherpalo founder Ram Shriram, who is one of the early investors in Skyroot and is also on the board of Alphabet

1.1BN VALUATION

Inc, will be joining the Skyroot board. With this, the total funding raised by Skyroot has hit $160 million (Rs 1,515 crore). The latest funding round will help Skyroot achieve its target of one rocket per month from its new Infinity campus in Hyderabad.

The fresh capital will be used to ramp up its manufacturing capacities, invest in machinery and testing facilities to help more launches, co-founder & CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana told TOI in an interview. "We have received interest from customers across the globe," Chandana said.

As part of its orbital launch ambitions, Skyroot is planning two to three rocket test launches before commercial operations begin next year, Skyroot founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said. "We are excited about the upcoming Vikram-1 launch, India's first private orbital rocket, marking a significant milestone both for India and the global space sector," he added.

UBL flags accidental disclosure of financials

Times News Network

Bengaluru: United Breweries on Thursday informed stock exchanges that an employee inadvertently disclosed unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSI) related to the company's draft annual financial results to an external individual.

In a filing, the beer maker said the disclosure took place on May 5 "for legitimate reasons" but without the "necessary safeguards". The company said the information pertained to its draft annual financial results. United Breweries subsequently announced its March quarter and FY26 results. Total income for the March quarter stood at Rs 4,414 crore, compared with Rs 4,433 crore a year earlier, while profit rose to Rs 102 crore from Rs 97 crore. For FY26, total income stood at Rs 17,501 crore, down from Rs 19,437 crore in FY25.

March quarter profit rises slightly, FY26 income and profit decline overall

The company said the board-approved financial results were disclosed to stock exchanges within a few hours of the inadvertent disclosure, and therefore "no further action is required" under Sebi's fair disclosure principles governing unpublished price-sensitive information.

The disclosure did not specify the nature of the information shared, identify the external individual involved, or state whether any trading activity occurred before the results were made public.

Britannia Q4 revenue rises 6.2%, profit up 22%

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Britannia Industries reported a rise in net profit and revenue for the March quarter, supported by growth in ecommerce and adjacent categories despite disruption in its international business linked to the West Asia conflict.

The company posted a net profit of Rs 679.7 crore for the March quarter, compared with Rs 559.1 crore a year earlier. Revenue rose to Rs 4,774.4 crore from Rs 4,495.2 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Sequentially, revenue declined from Rs 5,029.3 crore in the Dec quarter, while profit remained largely flat compared with Rs 682.1 crore. For FY26, Britannia reported revenue of Rs 19,375.6 crore, up 6.6% from Rs 18,169.8 crore in FY25. Profit for the year rose to Rs 2,537 crore from Rs 2,177.9 crore a year earlier.

Managing director and CEO Rakshit Hargave said the business recorded strong growth in the first two months of the quarter before moderating in March due to supply disruptions in the international business following the West Asia conflict. "As we step into the new financial year, we have already initiated steps to mitigate any potential implication on the business, including input cost inflation arising out of the ongoing conflict, and remain watchful of the evolving developments," Hargave said. The firm said categories such as croissants and wafers continued to see strong momentum. Britannia also said it has initiated measures to mitigate the impact of input cost inflation and geopolitical disruptions in the new financial year.

Walmart's chief Furner meets PM, takes stock of India mkt

Times News Network

Mumbai: Walmart's new president and CEO John Furner who was on his first trip to India since assuming the corner office in Feb took stock of the market as two of its local businesses Flipkart and PhonePe head for a public listing on the bourses besides familiarising himself with the team here.

On Thursday evening before concluding his three-day visit, Furner also met Prime Minister Modi, said people in the know. In a townhall with Flipkart employees earlier this week, Furner said that speed of delivery is increasingly defining the new norms in retail globally. Flipkart which has been a late entrant to the local quick commerce market has been ramping up its network of dark stores and geographical footprint as it competes with bigger rivals Blinkit, Instamart and Zepto in the space.

Furner said that speed of delivery is increasingly defining the new norms in retail across the globe

Furner also said that Flipkart will continue to have its own independent way of functioning despite change in global leadership.

"India represents one of the most dynamic opportunities in global commerce today," Furner said at the company's growth summit in Delhi, adding that it has already sourced more than $40 billion in goods from India. Walmart will focus on strengthening supplier capabilities, raising compliance and quality standards, and helping scale manufacturing, equipping more Indian businesses to export, Furner said.

While Flipkart is preparing for IPO and is eyeing a listing sometime next year, PhonePe has paused its listing plans due to the war-led market turmoil.

HC refuses to halt Tata trust meeting

Times News Network

Mumbai: The Sir Ratan Tata Trust's board meeting will go ahead as scheduled on Friday after the Bombay high court refused an urgent hearing of a petition seeking a stay on the proceedings.

The petition, filed by Suresh Tulsiram Patilkhede, a 61-year-old Thane resident, had sought to block the meeting and bar the SRTT trustees from taking decisions on appointments and governance. He had alleged that the current SRTT board was unlawful under a 2025 amendment to the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act.

SRTT, which had filed a caveat to ensure no interim order was passed without hearing it, informed the court through their counsel Janak Dwarkadas that the matter had already been mentioned on Wednesday and that urgent listing be declined. The court too was not satisfied on the urgency. Former Madras high court chief justice T Raja, appearing for Patilkhede, sought liberty to approach the vacation bench regarding Friday's decisions, which was granted. The court goes into a summer recess from Saturday.

Friday's meeting is set to review the nominees of SRTT and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust on the Tata Sons board, in which the two trusts hold a controlling 52% stake.

How Kolkata hit reset button, and became saffron overnight

Public transport operators, film bodies and traders moved quickly to adapt after Trinamool's rout. Infrastructure plans gained momentum, while uncertainty spread through minority neighbourhoods amid reports of intimidation, and aggressive displays by groups celebrating the new order, writes Subhro Niyogi

Sayantan Chakraborty

A pavement on Bidhan Sarani, in north-central Kolkata, awash in a sea of saffron-and-green BJP flags

The scissor barricades on the road leading to outgoing CM Mamata Banerjee's home in Kalighat have been removed

For 34 years, Bengal had been a red bastion. Red flags, with their hammer and sickle, fluttered across Kolkata. At Esplanade, the heart of the city, you couldn't miss statues of the founders of communism — Marx, Engels, Lenin — striding purposefully.

Then, on May 13, 2011, almost three-and-a-half decades after Bengal elected a Left Front govt, that govt was gone. It managed to win only 40 seats, while Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress romped home with 184. Within hours of that historic victory, the Red Fortress changed its colour. The red flags disappeared, and in their place the city was awash with Trinamool's tricolour flags — twin flowers and grass (Jora Ghas Phool). The statue of the communist troika was left untouched, but there was now little purpose now in their earnest stride.

Overnight, the Left cadre disappeared from the ubiquitous party offices, leaving them deserted and vulnerable to takeover. A year earlier, TMC had already assumed office at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), which administers the city. With the TMC now trumping the Left in the assembly polls, the change was complete.

Fast forward to 2026, and you get a sense of deja vu. With BJP securing 207 seats against TMC's 80 in the assembly polls, the change that followed on Monday, May 4, was perhaps swifter. The orange and green BJP flag, with its blooming lotus, replaced the flower and grass at surreal speed at local clubs, party offices, and auto stands. By Tuesday, Kolkata was fully saffron. A decade-and-a-half of Trinamool dominance — all visual markers — had vanished into the ether.

This time though, the changes extended beyond a cosmetic makeover. The immediate fallout was one of swift political realignment, administrative signalling and public recalibration. From auto fares and Metro projects to Tollywood power structures and hawker networks, the city is already reflecting the consequences of a dramatic change of guard.

Auto Fares Rolled Back

One of the quickest shifts came in public transport. Auto fares that were raised after the April 1 LPG price hike were rolled back almost immediately after the results. Auto unions, sensing the public mood and the arrival of a new regime, moved with great haste to align themselves with BJP.

"We saw the writing on the wall," said one operator at the Tollygunge Phari auto stand. "The public was angry about the hike, and with a new regime in charge, we didn't want to be the first targets of a crackdown," said an auto operator in Behala.

Commuters noted the shift with a mix of relief and cynicism. "Yesterday they were demanding Rs 5 extra, citing the gas price," said a regular commuter at Behala. "Today, they are polite, charging the old rate, and have a BJP flag tied to the hood," said Aveek Ghosh, a banker. The transition was marked by rallies where each operator was handed a flag, then smeared with saffron *abir* (gulal), and fed laddoos.

Metro Expansion

The city's long-delayed Metro expansion is also expected to gather pace. Within days of the result, the railways ministry cleared projects worth Rs 895.3 crore for Bengal, with Rs 671.7 crore earmarked for the crucial upgrade of the over 32km-long Blue Line — the longest operational Metro route in the city. The move is expected to improve train frequency and speed through a major power system overhaul.

Officials are also hopeful that stalled work on the Orange, Purple and Yellow corridors, along with the Barrackpore extension, will now move faster as state-level bottlenecks ease. Metro Railway had to move court to facilitate work on the Orange Line (New Garia-Airport corridor). Work on a 366-metre viaduct gap at Chingrighata will finally begin on May 15, after a year's gap. The Purple Line, which, too, has been going on for more than a decade, will gather impetus; land at Esplanade, occupied by a market under the state PWD, may finally be available. The Pink Line (Baranagar-Barrackpore corridor) has been stuck because the state govt was not ready to bear its 50% cost share. "Now all these projects will get moving," a railways official said.

Relief In Film Industry

Tollywood, too, is witnessing a reset. Two brothers, Aroop and Swarup Biswas, had managed to get a stranglehold over Bengal's film industry — Tollywood (named thus because the studios are mostly located in Tollygunge). While Aroop was a veteran minister and a four-time MLA from Tollygunge, Swarup controlled film industry unions. This time, Aroop lost to BJP's Papiya Adhikari by over 6,000 votes.

Eastern India Motion Pictures Association (EIMPA) president Piyaa Sengupta was quick in severing the organisation's ties with Trinamool, rebranding it as a "non-political entity" that officially welcomed the new govt.

Some, like actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay (who made a mark for himself in Bollywood with the 2012 thriller, 'Kahaani'), had been forced to apologise for moving court against the technicians' federation that many in the industry accused of operating through intimidation and diktat. After the regime change, Chattopadhyay said the federation president had become a law unto himself, eclipsing both the industry and even the former CM, and that he and others in the industry would be happy if the new govt worked towards the betterment of the cine industry, while accommodating differences in political ideology, and eradicating the 'ban culture'.

Papia Adhikari has declared the federation's era of "dictatorship" over. Her roadmap for revival is aggressive — vowing to end the industry's culture of bans.

Writers' Buildings

At the administrative level, the new govt is preparing to revive Writers' Buildings as the state secretariat. The iconic colonial-era structure — built in 1777 as an office for East India Company's clerks — was the nerve centre of Bengal's governance. But in 2013, the Mamata govt shifted operations to Nabanna (across the Hooghly, in Shibpur, Howrah). Restoration plans moved slowly for years, but the BJP govt now appears determined to bring governance back to the historic building and accelerate its long-pending renovation.

The new govt is preparing to revive the iconic colonial-era Writers' Buildings as the state secretariat. In 2013, the Mamata govt had shifted operations to the more modern Nabanna, across the Hooghly in Howrah's Shibpur

Senior PWD officials have stepped up preparations to shift the state secretariat to the Writers' Buildings as the incoming BJP govt is apparently unwilling to work out of Nabanna. The urgency of the move was underlined by a police inspection on Wednesday, when officers visited different floors of Writers' Buildings to assess the layout, review repairs and examine how security arrangements would have to be redesigned before the new CM and ministers started working from there.

Enter The Bulldozer

On the streets, though, the transition has been more uneasy. Around New Market and adjoining areas, hundreds of hawker stalls temporarily shut down as traders assessed the new balance of power. Some sought fresh political protection under BJP-linked unions, while others chose to stay away amid uncertainty and fear of reprisal.

The shift has been especially tense because local union leaders have made it clear that old patterns of simply switching allegiance may no longer guarantee survival. The use of a bulldozer by a mob waving BJP flags has sparked fear across the city. The interim administration has been quick to step in, with the Kolkata Police commissioner announcing a ban on use of bulldozers in celebrations.

Several prominent BJP netas have also dissociated the party and its cadre from this, saying this is the handiwork of opportunists keen to cosy up with the new dispensation.

Elsewhere, roads and pavements around key TMC-linked residences have opened up after the dismantling of elaborate security arrangements. Areas around Harish Chatterjee Street and Harish Mukherjee Road, long shaped by the presence of high-profile political protection, are now seeing a visible easing of barricades and restrictions.

In contrast, the changes that happened in Kolkata when TMC had stormed to office, ending 34 years of Left regime, were slow. That is because the KMC was already under Trinamool. The corporation had already begun ringing in changes, like installing decorative street lights.

And while Trinamool supporters did attack CPM party offices — just as BJP workers are now taking over Trinamool ones — the common citizen was not targeted, unlike now, when bike gangs sporting BJP flags have criss-crossed minority neighbourhoods, crying 'Jai Shri Ram'. Members of the community hope the incidents were an aberration, the result of a vacuum, until the new govt is sworn in. "We hope the new govt will restore law and order, and deliver the efficient governance it has promised," said entrepreneur Rehan Waris, who lives in south Kolkata's Park Circus locality.

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
(An Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Phone: 0755 – 2526800, 2526823, 2526814

No. SPAB/RGO/Advt/2026/02 Date: 08 May 2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVIDING MESS SERVICES FOR STUDENTS CO-OPERATIVE MESS AT SPA, BHOPAL

Sealed proposals are invited from reputed firms for "Providing Mess Services for Students Co-operative Mess at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal". For more details please visit Institute website: **spabhopal.ac.in.** Separate bids are to be submitted for separate hostels. The last date for submission of separate tender for separate hostels is 29.05.2026 up to 03:00 pm.

Registrar I/C

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o SE (Gen.) Banswara (Raj.)

E-TENDER NOTICE : TN-46 (RVU2627WLOB00226)

Online tenders are invited for Capital/Overhauling Maintenance Work of Unit-II, PH-I. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2237 RVUN/PR-4390 Superintending Engineer (Gen.)

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016482 (Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004) Office of The Superintending Engineer (MM) Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)

SHORT TERM "E" TENDRING INVITING TENDER NOTICE

"E"- TENDERING ARE INVITED FOR Supply of H/W for T&C DISC 45 KN TN-2120, ACSR DOG CONDUCTOR TN-2121, DISC INSULATOR (B&S) 45 KN TN-2122, LT GI PIN TN-2123, 33 KV LIGHTNING ARRESTOR TN-2124, POLY CABONATE SEAL TN-2125, 11/0.4 KV DIST. T/F 40 KVA TN-2126, 11/0.4 KV DIST. T/F 160 KVA TN-2127, 11/0.4 KV DIST. T/F 10 KVA TN-2128, EMD and date of uploading /opening of tender and G.C.C. etc WILL be available at web site **www.avvnl.com & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN : AVV2627GLOB00009

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2309 Superintending Engineer (MM) AVVNL, Ajmer

SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY
BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY WING, POOJAPPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM–12
(An Institute of National Importance under Government of India)
PHONE: (91) 0471 2520460/450 Email: cwing_bmt@sctimst.ac.in

CIVIL/SCTIMST/EOI/01/2026 08-05-2026

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from Eligible Firms/Architects for the Execution of: Documentation, Condition Mapping & Estimation for the repair of roof of Satelmond Palace.

For more details visit : https://www.sctimst.ac.in/Tenders/
Issue of Documents : 08-05-2026 to 18-05-2026
Last date of submission : 26-05-2026

Sd/-, DIRECTOR

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(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Mode only)

General Manager (Civil), Corporate office, BESCOM invites tender for the following work tender through E-procurement mode for Indent No: **BESCOM/2026-27 /BD/WORK_INDENT 1080 Name of the work:** Providing Interior works with connected electrical work by dismantling existing wall paneling & ceiling at Ground floor of Block-I building corporate office BESCOM.

Approximate Amount put to tender: **Rs. 31.36 Lakhs,**
Last Date for Submission of Tenders: **18.05.2026**

Further details of the tender can be obtained from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on hyperlink "E-Procurement" on or after 08.05.2026.

For any BESCOM related Complaints Call: 1912
Please Download BESCOM Mitra Mobile App

Sd/-
General Manager (Civil),
BESCOM, Bengaluru

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU-01
HCC No.181/2026 Date: 04.05.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited by the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru from the interested OEM/Vendors/ System Integrators from Digital Wallet/Online Payment Solution Providers for the High Court of Karnataka and District Judiciary across the State of Karnataka as per, the eligibility criteria stated in EOI document published through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Bengaluru.

The last date to upload the Expression of Interest is fixed as on **25.05.2026 at 4:00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/ live** website.

Sd/-
(N.G.Dinesh)
Registrar (Computers) and Tender Inviting And Accepting Authority, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/524/MAA/2026-27

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072. India

Advt No. D/1/2026 7th May 2026

Corrigendum to Advt No. D/1/2026 Dated 1st May 2026

In addition to 10 points in advertisement notified as above, the following 2 (two) points are notified:

11. The notification No. D/1/2025 dated July 26, 2025 stands cancelled.
12. In view of 11 above, those who had applied in response to the said notification must apply afresh, if interested, in accordance with the Advertisement No. D/1/2026 dated 1st May 2026, including the time limit, i.e., 1st June 2026.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/559/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru-560 027. Ph: 080-22969274
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No. Phase 2A-2B/CT-01 Date: 08.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL Invites sealed Tenders through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB) from suitably qualified, eligible, reputed and experienced Tenderers for **"Manufacturing, Supply and Laying of RCC Cable Trough for ORR and Airport Line (New Line) of Phase-2A & Phase-2B"** under Single stage, Two envelope system. Cost of Tender documents **Rs. 11,800 [Rs. 10,000 + Rs. 1,800 (GST at 18%)].** Online Sale of Documents: **From 11.05.2026 at 11.00 Hours (IST) to 10.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST).** Submission of Tenders: **From 05.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST) to 10.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST).** Opening of Tenders: **11.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST).** For further details, please visit CPP Portal **(https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app)** from **11.05.2026.**

Sd/- Executive Director (Traction), BMRCL

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009
Ph: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-04/09/2026-27/211 Date: 07.05.2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Syed Nasir S/o Late Syed Mohinuddin, Sri Mohammed Kaleem ulla S/o Late Mohammed Shafi Ulla and Sri Tabrez Ali Baig S/o Late Noorulla Baig have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: 387/13 extent of 0 Acre-13¾ Guntas of Belavadi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District and Sy.No:239/1 extent of 0Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:239/2 extent of 0Acre-16Guntas, Sy.No:239/3 extent of 0Acre-19Guntas and Sy.No:239/4 extent of 0Acre-02Guntas totally measuring **01Acre-17¾ Guntas** of Kesare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Mysore District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. If this land is developed Job opportunities will be available to all sector of labourers.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the development of layout takes place, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/560/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCCM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	02261196/28.05.2026	Harness for HOG compliant LHB EOG High Capacity Parcel Van Coaches	--	187100/-
2.	02261166/02.06.2026	Three Phase propulsion equipment and control system for BG High Speed Self-Propelled Inspection Car (HS-SPIC)	--	5000000/-
3.	02261127/29.05.2026	Feeder Junction Box for LHB Coach with Bio Toilet	--	476350/-
4.	12261061/08.06.2026	Set of Partition Frame for AC RA Coaches	15 Set	1,76,190/-
5.	14261030/26.05.2026	Composite Fire Extinguishers with Anti-Theft Mechanism	1000.00 Number	9,60,000/-
6.	14261032/01.06.2026	Fire Retardant Rubber Base Adhesive	1327 Set	101780/-

(1) For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in**. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in (2)** Bids will close at **14.25 hrs.** on due date and tender will be opened at **14.30 hrs.** Tenders **Sr. No.1 to 06** will be open at RCF Kapurthala (Punjab) **(3)** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23370897, 23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment is authorized against Tender no. 12251356B for Supply of One Coach Set of Aluminium Extrusion/Moulding for LHB SCN, SLR & GS Amrit Bharat Coaches in RCF, Kapurthala. **Existing Due Date:** 11.05.2026 **To be read as due date :** 15.05.2026

PCMM

No.: 13-S/2026-27 Date: 07.05.2026

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560079.
Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

No:KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/CHLORTHALIDONE TAB/03/2026-27 Dt: 07.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1.Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/CHLORTHALIDONE TAB/03/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0386)
2. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/ AMLODIPINE TAB/04/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0387).
3. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/ TELMISARTAN TAB/05/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0388).
4. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/ METFORMIN TAB/06/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0389).
5. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/PRGM/GRUHA AROGYA/ GLIMEPIRIDE TAB/07/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0390).
6. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/25-26 AI/ASV/08/2026-27, Dt: 07.05.2026 (IND-0391).
7. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/CT/ECRP/56/2025-26, Date: 06.05.2026 (IND-0395).

Nationwide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Tender for the supply of Chlorthalidone Tablets 12.5 mg under NCD Gruha Arogya Program for FY 2025-26 (Under State funds) (IND-0386).
2. Tender for the supply of Amlodipine Tablets 5 mg under NCD Gruha Arogya Program for FY 2025-26 (Under State funds) (IND-0387).
3. Tender for the supply of Telmisartan Tablets 40 mg under NCD Gruha Arogya Program for FY 2025-26 (Under State funds)(IND-0388).
4. Tender for the supply of Metformin SR Tablets 500 mg under NCD Gruha Arogya Program for FY 2025-26 (Under State funds) (IND-0389).
5. Tender for the supply of Glimepiride Tablets 1 mg under NCD Gruha Arogya Program for FY 2025-26 (Under State funds) (IND-0390).
6. Re-Tender for the supply of Snake Venom Antiserum for various Health Institutions across Karnataka under Annual Indent 2025-26 (IND-0391)
7. Tender for the supply and Installation of CT Scan Equipment under ECRP-II NHM Program (IND-0395).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **07.05.2026.** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KSMSCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/554/CCL/2026-27

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-C-2026-92

Description of Work: Lalitpur: Construction of 8 units Type II and 2 Units type III quarters on replacement account at Lalitpur station under ADEN/LAR jurisdiction.

Approx Cost (Rs.): ₹25935429.80	Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹518700.00

Date of Closing Tender: 01.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-C-2026-96

Description of Work: Extension/Raising of Platform No. 1/2 to high level for recoupment of shortfall in MEA at JLN under VGLJ- BINA Section.

Approx Cost (Rs.): ₹29013135.60	Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹580300.00

Date of Closing Tender: 01.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-C-2026-97

Description of Work: Extension/Raising of Platform No. 3/4 to high level for recoupment of shortfall in MEA at JLN under VGLJ- BINA Section.

Approx Cost (Rs.): ₹29121455.40	Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹582400.00

Date of Closing Tender: 01.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months

- Tender on line can be submitted up to **15:00 hrs.** on **01.06.2026.**
- For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

1000/26 (A)

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, 8, 2026

IPL 2026

"BOWLING GROUPS HAVE TO BE VERY DETAILED IN THEIR STRATEGIES BECAUSE OF HOW STRONG THE BATTING UNITS ARE, PARTICULARLY FOR THE TOP-FOUR AND IN THE POWERPLAY. FOR US, CUMMINS AND VETTORI ARE VERY DETAILED."
—James Franklin | SRH assistant coach

111 Mitchell Marsh's knock is his second century in the IPL, his first being 117 vs GT in Ahmedabad on May 22, 2025.

Sunil Kumar

Marsh Century Lights Up Rain-Hit Match As Pant & Co. Sneak Past RCB

LSG PREVAIL IN THRILLER

Fazal Khan | TNN

Lucknow: Royal Challengers Bengaluru just don't give up. In a match that looked gone within the first three overs of their chase, they fought like tigers to get it down to the last two balls. The target, 213, was an extremely tricky chase, more so after openers Virat Kohli (0) and Jacob Bethell (4) departed early. But RCB, bolstered by a few brilliant cameos by Rajat Patidar, Tim David, Romario Shepherd and Krunal Pandya, brought it down to 20 off six. Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant, who himself had scored a terrific 32 not out off 10 balls, gave the ball to leggie Digvesh Rathi in the last over. The spinner, against all odds, against a rampaging Shepherd and Krunal, kept his cool to win it for LSG.

Earlier, Mitchell Marsh shone for LSG on a rainy Thursday. The Aussie opener's fierce power, that makes him one of the most feared T20 batters, was on display as he smashed 111 off 56 balls to set up a nine-run win (DLS method) for LSG against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The win may not help them make the playoffs but it can make RCB's route to the last-four stage slightly complicated.

There were three rain breaks during LSG's innings but it couldn't stop Marsh. The power-hitter first stitched a 95-run opening stand with Arshin Kulkarni (17) before following it up with a 70-run stand with Nicholas Pooran (38). It helped LSG reach 209-3 in a game that was reduced to 19 overs. At the Ekana ground where big scores haven't been that easy, RCB lost the wickets of openers Jacob Bethell (4) and Virat Kohli (0) early and it was an uphill task for them thereon.

Medium-pacer Prince Yadav came up with an impressive spell, mixing his length and pace and got the wickets of Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal and Jitesh Sharma as RCB wobbled in the chase. Patidar gave a spunky reply with 61 off 31 balls, but when left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed had him caught in the deep, the game looked well and truly gone. Tim David battled, so did Shepherd and Krunal, but it wasn't enough for the day.

The evening, though, belonged to Marsh. Holding his shape and hitting through the line, Marsh took on compatriot Hazlewood early on, smashing him for two sixes over his head before hitting three boundaries in the next over. He attacked medium-pacer Rasik Dhar too, hitting him for a couple of sixes and raced away to his half-century in 20 balls.

0 After nine years, Virat Kohli has scored a duck while chasing in the IPL. The last time was a golden duck against KKR in Kolkata on Apr 23, 2017.

61 Rajat Patidar has recorded his first fifty vs LSG and his 12th overall in the IPL.

SCOREBOARD

LSG: M Marsh c Bethell b Hazlewood 111, A Kulkarni c Patidar b Krunal 17, N Pooran c Krunal b Dar 38, R Pant not out 32, A Markram not out 1; **Extras: (lb5, w5) 10; Total: (3 wkts, 19 ovrs) 209; FoW:** 1-95, 2-165, 3-194; **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-0, Hazlewood 4-0-49-1, Krunal 4-0-31-1, Dar 4-0-53-1, Suyash 2-0-21-0, Shepherd 1-0-16-0.

RCB: J Bethell c Prince b Shami 4, V Kohli b Prince 0, D Padikkal c and b Prince 34, R Patidar c Markram b Ahmed 61, J Sharma c Pant b Prince 1, T David c Rathi b Ahmed 40, K Pandya not out 28, R Shepherd not out 23; **Extras: (lb4, w8) 12; Total: (6 wkts, 19 ovrs) 203; FoW:** 1-9, 2-9, 3-104, 4-106, 5-112, 6-158; **Bowling:** Shami 4-0-33-1, Prince 4-0-33-3, Mayank 4-0-50-0, Rathi 4-0-50-0, Ahmed 3-0-33-2.

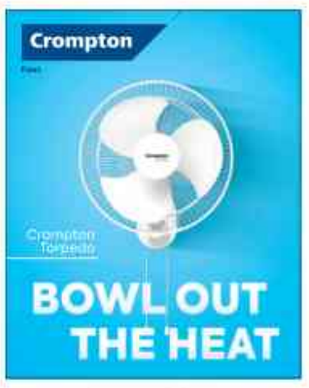
LSG won by 9 runs (DLS Method).

209-3 Runs scored by LSG is their third score of 200+ vs RCB. The other two are 227/3 in Lucknow on May 27, 2025 and 213/9 in Bengaluru on April 10, 2023.

49 Balls taken by Marsh to race to his hundred, the quickest by an LSG batter, bettering the 54 balls taken by Rishabh Pant vs RCB in Lucknow on May 27, 2025.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
SRH	11	7	4	0	0.737	14
PBKS	10	6	3	1	0.571	13
RCB	10	6	4	0	1.234	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	10	6	4	0	-0.147	12
CSK	10	5	5	0	0.151	10
DC	10	4	6	0	-0.949	8
KKR	9	3	5	1	-0.539	7
MI	10	3	7	0	-0.649	6
LSG	10	3	7	0	-0.934	6



Oz players in IPL free to skip Pak ODIs

Melbourne: Cricket Australia on Thursday confirmed that its players, including skipper Pat Cummins, will be allowed to fulfill their IPL-2026 commitments, granting them exemption from the three-match ODI series against Pakistan which begins on May 30. The IPL's league phase ends on May 24 while the final will be played on May 31. PTI

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
SILENT ALARM
70% of ovarian cases are found late. A 12-month bloat is your early warning.
Scan to assess your risk
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo At: Clinical excellence for healthcare India

ACSU flags concerns over unauthorised people in IPL dugout, team hotels

New Delhi: The IPL's Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) has raised concerns over unauthorised people being present in team dugouts, buses, hotels and Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) during the ongoing season, prompting the BCCI to tighten its standard operating procedures for franchises. IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed that the ACSU had submitted a report to the BCCI regarding the issue.

Highlighting the anomalies flagged by the anti-corruption unit, Dhumal said the matter was being taken seriously by the board. "The Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) has flagged off certain anomalies and submitted a report about unauthorised persons being seen in dugout, team bus and team hotel during IPL matches," Dhumal said. Indicating that stricter compliance measures would soon follow, the IPL chairman said franchises would be reminded to adhere to established protocols.

"There are certain protocols under PMOA that need to be followed and the BCCI will be telling franchises to be mindful of the SOPs so that sanctity of the tournament is restored," Dhumal added.

It is understood that ACSU officials have specifically taken note of certain younger players allegedly exploiting loopholes under the category of rules for WAGS (wives and girlfriends). A franchise source alleged that unidentified women had at times been allowed access to restricted areas. "The wives are not the problem but some cash-rich younger IPL players are inviting unidentified women to their rooms and that has not escaped ACU official's attention. At times these are random women who are being introduced as girlfriends and are travelling on team buses reserved for families. There are chances that the naive ones could be honeytrapped. Some strict rules especially on girlfriends will be there in SOPs," the source said.

Meanwhile, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said, "We have observed various anomalies. If there is any violation after this, BCCI and IPL will take stringent action." AGENCIES

Can DC shed home blues against KKR?

Prasanth.Menon
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It's a battle for survival as Delhi Capitals host Kolkata Knight Riders here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday night. A win on Friday will keep either side in playoff contention while a defeat will push them to the brink of elimination. On show are two teams that have struggled to decode the high-octane tempo of this IPL. However, the mood in the Capitals and Knight Riders camps is in sharp contrast.

After a bright start to their IPL campaign, the Capitals have lost their way, losing four of their last five games and slipping to seventh in the points table. In fact, they have an abysmally poor record at home, winning only one game (their opener against Mumbai Indians) and losing four. "We have to win four from four to have a chance of qualifying. So it becomes really important," said Capitals middle-order batter David Miller.

On the other hand, the Knight Riders have resurrected their campaign after a poor start and have momentum after securing a hat-trick of victories in their last three matches this season, though they are still only a spot below the Capitals in the IPL standings.

Inconsistency has been Capitals' bane and, despite using 20 of the 25 players at their disposal this season, the Axar Patel-led side is struggling to find the right combination. When their batting has clicked, the Capitals' bowling has been found wanting and, when their bowlers have managed to put a stranglehold on rivals, the batters have floundered.

Barring opener KL Rahul — 445 runs from 10 games — and Tristan Stubbs, the rest of the Capitals' batters have failed to deliver. The batting collapses in their last two home games will be giving plenty of headaches to the team management and they may be mulling the possibility of tinkering with their lineup for the game against KKR.

"I think with the batting, it is pretty clear we have not done too well. We have lost wickets in clusters. It puts us into positions where we have to rebuild and then try and get a competitive total," said Miller, who was dropped from the playing XI in the last two matches.

Though their premier pacers Mitchell Starc and Lungi Ngidi came together for the first time in the previous game, the attack looked pedestrian against Chennai Super Kings. And if the slow-bowling pair of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav fail to get their act together and make dents in the Knight Riders' batting lineup in the middle overs, the Capitals may find themselves pushed further into a corner.

Meanwhile, the Knight Riders have managed to claw their way out of trouble and are in playoff contention largely due to the performance of their bowlers.

WEATHER
32°C

9 DC's nine-wicket win in Durban on May 5, 2009 is their biggest in terms of wickets against KKR. KKR's top triumph over DC came by a similar margin at Eden Gardens on Apr 10, 2016. —**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

TWEAK ZONE: Kolkata Knight Riders' Anukul Roy bowls at the nets on the eve of the tie against Delhi Capitals

India's spin trio faces a battle within

Capitals Need Batting Reset To Keep Playoff Hopes Alive Against Resurgent Knights

Prasanth.Menon@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The contest between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday night offers an interesting subplot. On view will be three of India's frontline spin options in the T20 setup — Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. Though they were part of the high of India's T20 World Cup title defence in March, the trio has endured its share of struggles since.

For KKR's Varun, problems began to crop up during the course of that successful T20 World Cup campaign. Though he emerged as the joint-highest wicket-taker alongside Jasprit Bumrah with 14 wickets, rivals seemed to get a better read on his mystery spin from the Super-8 stage. He claimed just five wickets in the last five World Cup matches and his tournament economy climbed past nine.

His lean patch continued in the initial stages of the IPL as Varun went wicketless in the first two matches before being sidelined by a hand injury. In fact, Varun had to wait until his fourth match this season, against Gujarat Titans, to get into the wicket-takers' column as he finished with 2/34 in Ahmedabad.

Once he got back among the wickets, though, the 34-year-old showed signs of returning to his best. In recent matches, he has used the crease well and come up with subtle variations to reap dividends. He has claimed eight wickets in the last three matches, coinciding with KKR' hat-trick of wins.

KKR mentor Dwayne Bravo said the injury break seemed to have done Varun a world of good. "Varun is a world-class spinner and had just come from a hectic World Cup. Sometimes a break at the right time is important. Nobody doubted his ability. The group has supported him throughout," said the former West Indies allrounder.

On the other hand, Delhi Capitals' Kuldeep Yadav is having a nightmarish season. The rust from warming the bench for the most part of India's T20 World Cup campaign seems to be showing. He has been guilty of bowling too short and has claimed just seven wickets in 10 games while going at more than 10 runs per over.

However, Kuldeep's teammate David Miller backed the left-arm wristspinner. "He is a great character and for me it is important to have those kinds of guys continually playing, because he is a match-winner. So take the good with the bad. There have been one or two games where he has not bowled the best that he could have," said Miller.

DC Skipper Axar, however, has fared better than his spin-bowling partner. Though he is the leading wicket-taker for the team this season, nine wickets from 10 games is not a statistic the left-arm spinner would be too proud of. Moreover, some of the decisions Axar has taken as skipper have invited criticism and he will be feeling the heat.

WHAT THEIR RECENT T20 NUMBERS SAY

In IPL

Spinner	M	W	Ave	Best	SR	ER
Varun Chakravarthy	7	10	22.2	3/14	15	8.9
Kuldeep Yadav	10	7	44.4	2/31	25.7	10.4
Axar Patel	10	9	29.3	2/18	21.3	8.3

In T20 World Cup

Spinner	M	W	Ave	Best	SR	ER
Varun Chakravarthy	9	14	20.5	3/7	13.2	9.25
Kuldeep Yadav	1	1	14	1/14	18	4.7
Axar Patel	7	11	18.6	3/27	13.6	8.2

GALLERY

WFI WARNING FOR WRESTLERS

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Thursday warned U-23 wrestlers that withdrawing from the upcoming Asian Championships in Vietnam could lead to their exclusion from the Asian Games selection trials later this month, reports **Sabi Hussain.** The warning comes after prominent wrestlers decided to skip the Asian meet due to scheduling concerns.

Warner to 'accept' drink-drive charge: Australian cricket star David Warner will "accept responsibility" for drink-driving, his lawyer told reporters on Thursday after a Sydney court hearing. The 39-year-old faces a "middle-range" drink-driving charge, court documents showed, after allegedly being more than twice the legal limit in Sydney in April. "I can indicate that David will be accepting responsibility for drink-driving," defence lawyer Bobby Hill told reporters outside court, according to public broadcaster ABC.

Stokes '100 percent to bowl' on return: Ben Stokes is expected to bat and bowl for county side Durham as he returns to action for the first time since England's disastrous Ashes campaign. Stokes is set to face Worcestershire in a second division County Championship match starting on Friday. Durham coach Ryan Campbell said Stokes could open the bowling at New Road in the absence of West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach. "He'll be bowling for us, 100 percent," Campbell told Press Association news agency.

Williamson named in NZ squad: Kane Williamson has been named in New Zealand's squad to play Ireland and England in May and June.

Squad: Tom Latham (capt), Tom Blundell, Kristian Clarke (Ire only), Devon Conway, Zak Foulkes, Dean Foxcroft, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae (Ire only), Rachin Ravindra, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Kane Williamson, Will Young (Ire only).

Women archers stun Korea to enter final

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Kolkata: India's women recurve archers stunned powerhouse South Korea 5-1 to make the team final of the Archery World Cup Stage-II in Shanghai on Thursday. This morale-boosting achievement comes just months before the Asian Games.

The team comprising Olympians Deepika Kumari and Ankita Bhakat along with teenager Kumkum Mohod, ensured the first medal for India in this World Cup by easing past a new-look Korean side to set up a gold medal clash against second seed China on Sunday.

WORLD CUP STAGE II

However, their men's counterparts of veteran Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Yashdeep Bhoge put up a poor show to go down 2-6 to Bangladesh in pre-quarterfinals after getting a first-round bye.

The women faced an inexperienced Korean side, which skipped the first leg of the World Cup in Mexico where India ended empty-handed.

The Korean team featured reigning world champion Kang Chaeyoung as the only experienced archer in the side with two debutants in Lee Yunji and Oh Yejin.

However, they still qualified as the top-ranked team but were not up to the mark before falling 55-58, 56-56, 56-58 to India.

Earlier, the women trio recovered from a slow start to beat Uzbekistan 6-2 (53-56, 57-54, 55-54, 55-51) in the opening round. The fourth-seeded India side faced a great challenge against Vietnam before overcoming them 5-4 (28-25) in a tense shoot-off.

Tarundeep and Dhiraj stayed in contention for individual medals after Atanu Das crashed out early while all the three women archers along with Simranjeet Kaur were in the run for individual medals.

The compound mixed team of Aditi Gopichand and Ojas Pravin crashed out losing 150-159 to Hong Kong in the pre-quarters while recurve mixed duo of Olympians Ankita and Dhiraj lost 4-5 to Brazil in second round.

'Became untenable to have final in B'luru'

New Delhi: IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday said it became "untenable" to have the final in Bengaluru due to high demand for complimentary tickets from the state government at the relatively low-capacity M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

IPL

Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, which can accommodate 1.30 lakh spectators, will host the final on May 31. Dhumal elaborated on the issues that BCCI faced.

The Karnataka government has a quota of three complimentary IPL tickets each for the MLAs, MLCs and MPs, which would have been difficult to implement at a venue which cannot accommodate more than 36,000.

"Ideally it should have been Bengaluru. We checked up with KSCA. Because what happened last year (stampede), they had some challenges. State government needs to give free tickets to legislators and KSCA has some other commitments for their members," he said. "Stadium capacity is also not that high. Very few tickets were available there for league games as well. Since IPL final attracts people from around the world, we need to have a larger inventory (of tickets) available for fans. We would have the ICC board meeting around that time too, a lot of members are coming for that." PTI

Hrithvik, bowlers power Century Cricketers

Bengaluru: Century Cricketers cruised past Mathikere Cricket Club for a seven-wicket victory in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently.

After opting to, Mathikere CC were bowled out for 181 in the 49th over. Their innings collapsed when they lost three wickets for the addition of as many runs. Lalitaditya G starred with the ball, picking up four wickets.

Century Cricketers chased this target with ease and matched the score by the 32nd over. Opener Hrithvik Shetty carried the game till its final moments by scoring a 96-ball unbeaten 100, which consisted of 14 boundaries.

Brief scores: Mathikere CC: 181 all out in 48 overs (Veer Bakare 26, Bhuvan Manohar 25 n.o; Skanda Subbaiah 3-47, Lalitaditya G 4-20) **lost to Century Cricketers: 182/3 in 31.1 overs** (Hrithvik Shetty 100 n.o (96b; 14x4), Hritvik Mishra 31). **Jayanagar United Cricketers: 229 all out in 47.2 overs** (Sudarshan Thapa 31, Ayan Mukherjee 36, Samarth Rayabagi 55 n.o; Siddharth Sarda 2-46, Eric Rupreo 2-26) **bt Coles CC: 190 all out in 42 overs** (Agam Singh 51, Jayanth Gowda 44, Ayushmaan Vadula 33 n.o; Adhyay 2-48, Soumith Kongara 2-35, Ramnath Nayak 4-24); **Bharath CC: 131 all out in 42 overs** (Aniketh Kundapur 30, Gaurav Jeevan 43 n.o; Krishna 5-15, Saurjyesh Das 4-16) lost **to Bangalore SC: 132/2 in 24.4 overs** (Aditya Kumar 56, Tanshh Krishna 65; Kaushik Neergunda 2-54); **Vultures CC: 287/7 in 50 overs** (Aaryan Nagesh 83, Akhieera Allan 46, Karun Hugar 63, Diganth N R 43; Nandisha SP 2-46) **bt Young Cricketers (1): 133 all out in 36.3 overs** (Karan Kumar 24, Vipin S 42; Arjun Balu 2-29, Parinith K 2-22, Aaryan Nagesh 3-17); **South End SC: 248/7 in 50 overs** (Yelavalli Ahil 66, Harshith Raja 51, Dhavan Srijan 41; Pradyumna Boyapati 2-44) **lost to Visweswarapuram CC (2): 251/8 in 44.4 overs** (Ruchitaksh Indrekar 120 (95b; 20x4; 2x6), Ved Mishra 34, Amritansh Singh 36; Arya Naveen 3-31, Venkat Akiranandhan 4-32); **Vijaya CC: 414/8 in 50 overs** (Hruthik Kumar 43, Saad Khan 104 (83b; 12x4), Panshul Sharma 38, Yuvaan Porwal 26 n.o; Saatvik Sanikop 2-87, Dishan R 2-49) **bt Jolly Cricketers: 55 all out in 16 overs; City Cricketers (2): 254 all out in 42.5 overs** (Parthaan R 37, Hithvik Reddy 40, Sahas N P 76, Sai Shreyas 24, Yashas Reddy 34; Gagan Gowda 3-42, Mohammed Pasha 3-47) **bt Merchants CC (1): 151 all out in 38.1 overs** (Deekshith Gowda 38, Yashvardhan Patro 25; Satvik K 4-37, Hithvik Reddy 3-20); **Young Lions Club: 93 all out in 24 overs** (Deekshith Gowda 26; Karthik J 3-19, Krishna KA 5-45, Ishaanth Y 2-4) **lost to The Bangalore Cricketers: 94/2 in 17 overs** (Navaneeth Kothapalli 54 n.o; Rahul Jena 2-24); **Blue Diamond Cricketers: 361/6 in 50 overs** (Yeshwanth K 94, Tambrahalli Samanyu 42, Chetas H 33, Siddharth Ram Narayan 110 n.o (74b; 12x4), Vihaan Payappanavar 31; Yashas Reddi Bongu 3-48) **bt Wadiyar CC: 172 all out in 36.2 overs** (Yuvaraj D Kumar 29, Sai Vignesh Srikanth 90; Atharv Kabugade 3-41, Siddharth Narayan 2-24). TNN

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PARIS HUNGRY FOR ENCORE

Kvaratskhelia Provides Creative Spark as PSG Set Up Final Clash With Arsenal In Budapest For Shot At History

Paris: Paris St Germain were supposed to have moved beyond the era of glittering individuals and galactico excess, but their march to a second straight Champions League final suggests they may simply have entered a new version of it.

This PSG side, no longer revolving around celebrity status, is built on Luis Enrique's relentless collective demands, on structure, sacrifice and intensity. Yet in Ousmane Dembele and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, PSG possess two players whose influence is already starting to feel era-defining.

After a 5-4 win at the Parc des Princes in a game that will remain in football's collective memory, PSG were expected to suffer against Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena. They did, but PSG struck almost immediately and seized control of the narrative.

After barely three minutes, Fabian Ruiz pierced Bayern's shape with a perfectly weighted pass to Kvaratskhelia. The Georgian accelerated into space and delayed just long enough to freeze the defence before cutting the ball back for Dembele, who rifled a first-time finish under the bar past Manuel Neuer. If last season marked the emergence of Luis Enrique's PSG, this campaign has confirmed their permanence among Europe's elite.

Willian Pacho, Nuno Mendes, Achraf Hakimi, Vitinha, Dembele and Desire Doue are becoming the faces of this generation, who will be looking to be the second team to retain their Champions League title against Arsenal in Budapest on May 30.

Ballon d'Or winner Dembele, deprived of service for long stretches and initially stationed in an unusual role on the right before drifting centrally after the break, touched the ball only 20 times. PSG also bypassed midfield more often than usual to escape Bayern's aggressive press. But elite forwards often require only a moment.

Kvaratskhelia remained on the pitch to endure, resist and attack again. At times he was exhausted, seconds later he would explode forward once more. He is the first player since the last 16 returned in 2003 to contribute to a goal in seven straight knockout matches. AFP

Kvaratskhelia won **11 of his 15 duels**, completed **six of seven dribbles** and recorded **56 touches** — more than every PSG player apart from Nuno Mendes

KEY MOMENTS

3'	**Dembele finishes rapid Paris break**
33'	Neuer expertly denies Joao Neves
44'	Safonov parries fierce Jamal Musiala strike
57'	Doue, Kvaratskhelia force Neuer saves
64'	Neuer thwarts Doue once more
90+4'	**Kane gives Bayern late hope**

ENRIQUE

"WE DEFENDED LIKE ANGELS. We showed our maturity, being able to defend as well as attack. As a coach it was a pleasure to see that performance." — PSG COACH **Enrique**

KOMPANY

"Paris defended crosses incredibly well. They always defended second balls very well. They were very active, and even though we got into dangerous areas, they made sure that we didn't get the final shot." — BAYERN COACH **Kompany**

"I think it was very important that we scored very fast. I saw Dembele was alone and I just had to give him the ball. He produced a very good finish. We're proud of him and all of the team because we fought today and the team spirit was amazing." — PSG'S **Kvaratskhelia**

2 Holders Paris are bidding to become only the second club in the Champions League era to successfully defend their title after Real Madrid, who won three in a row (2016-18).

25 The Gunners, runners-up in 2006, are seeking to become the 25th club to lift the trophy and the second new winners in succession after Paris' 2025 triumph.

44 PSG now need one more to equal Barcelona's record goal tally of 45 goals in the 1999-2000 season.

54 Harry Kane has now scored 54 goals in his first 70 UEFA Champions League.

Carlsen outplays Yagiz, Arjun for another title

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Magnus Carlsen defeated Yagiz Kaan in a must-win situation in the classical game and then beat Erigaisi Arjun twice with black pieces in the blitz tiebreak.

The result gave Norwegian world No. 1 the TePe Sigeman & Co chess title in Malmo, Sweden, on Thursday. It was the first classical tournament for Carlsen in almost 11 months. And he made it memorable after tying with Arjun on five points.

Arjun, leading by half a point overnight with 4.5, showed great resilience in the seventh and last round of the classical phase against Andy Woodward. In a precarious situation, he kept asking questions to the 15-year-old American. And when the teeenager fumbled, Arjun eked out half a point to ensure that he would either win the crown if Carlsen vs Yagiz game (both on 4 points then) ends in a draw or will get a chance to play tiebreaker against the winner of that game.

Forcing the opponent to play a series of correct and tricky moves is a hallmark of many great and resilient players. But those acts are generally done to draw a game from a lost position.

But Carlsen has an additional talent — he forces opponents to play many more correct moves in equal position to earn half a point. It's a show like no other as it invites depression from the rivals.

ON COURSE: Zeel Desai outplayed compatriot Jennifer Luikham

VALVERDE IN HOSPITAL AFTER SECOND CLASH WITH TCHOUAMENI: REPORTS

Madrid: Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde was treated in hospital after a clash with team-mate Aurelien Tchouameni following a training session on Thursday, several Spanish media outlets reported.

Uruguay international Valverde, who was accompanied to the hospital facility near the club's Valdebebas training complex by Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa, needed stitches to treat a facial wound, according to the reports. The two players rowed on Wednesday in training and their argument continued on Thursday during and after the session.

Spanish newspaper Marca, who first reported the story, said Valverde's cut was caused unintentionally and not directly by a punch from France midfielder Tchouameni.

Spanish media reported Valverde refused to shake Tchouameni's hand and later fouled him in Thursday's training session, with the pair scrapping afterwards in the dressing room when the injury occurred.

It follows another issue between defenders Antonio Rudiger and Alvaro Carreras a fortnight ago, which the latter said had been dealt with.

Tensions are running high at Real Madrid with the club on the verge of a second consecutive season without a major trophy. Los Blancos visit rivals Barcelona in a La Liga Clasico on Sunday, with the Catalans, 11 points clear. AFP

Vinesh cleared WADA's retirement rule but Asiad dream looks over

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VINESH PHOGAT

New Delhi: Vinesh Phogat has complied with the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) mandatory six-month notice requirement for athletes returning from retirement, sources close to the wrestler have claimed, even as fresh controversies continue to cloud her comeback to competitive wrestling.

Vinesh, who reversed her retirement decision in Dec 2025, is set to compete in the senior open ranking series in Gonda from May 10-12 in the 57kg category. However, her return has been mired in disputes involving registration issues on portal, a whereabouts failure, and questions over her eligibility under WADA regulations. The latest hurdle concerns Article 5.6.1 of WADA's anti-doping code, which requires athletes in a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) to provide six months' written notice to both the international federation and national anti-doping agency before resuming competition after retirement.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has sought clarification from United World Wrestling over whether Vinesh fulfilled the rule. "If she is eligible only then she can compete. If Vinesh had sought an exemption, we would have been notified by the authorities," WFI president Sanjay Singh said.

However, sources close to the wrestler told **TOI** that Vinesh had formally informed both WADA and UWW in June 2025 about her intention to return later in the year and had submitted the required form. "If that wasn't the case, how did the anti-doping team from ITA, on the instructions of UWW, come for Vinesh's sample collection in Bengaluru in Dec 2025?" the source asked. "The dope test happened six months after she adhered to WADA's six-month notice rule in June 2025."

However, Vinesh's hopes of representing India at the Asian Games remain bleak. Under WFI policy, only medallists from the 2025 Senior Nationals, 2026 Federation Cup and 2026 U-20 Nationals can compete in the Asiad trials.

FEARING BAN, AFI DENIES MOU WITH RUSSIA

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New Delhi: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday clarified that Russian athletes will not be permitted to compete in the country, distancing itself from claims made earlier by Russian Athletics regarding a "cooperation agreement" between the two federations.

The explanation came after Russian Athletics announced on its website and Instagram handle that it had entered into an agreement with the AFI following meetings between officials here. The announcement sparked concerns as Russian athletes remain suspended by World Athletics after their invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Rejecting the claims, World Athletics vice-president and AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla stated, "I can categorically onfirm that there is no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Russian Athletics and the AFI and no Russian athlete will compete in India while World Athletics' sanctions remain in place," Sumariwalla said.

Vaidehee, Zeel ease into quarterfinals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tumakuru: Top seed Justina Mikulskyte survived a dramatic start against Poland's Zuzanna Kolonus before bouncing back for a 0-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory in the pre-quarterfinals of the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 tournament.

TUMAKURU OPEN

Second seed Zuzanna Pawlikowska also continued her steady run with a straight-sets win over India's Sonal Patil.

In other matches, Vaidehee Chaudhari looked in control during her 6-2, 6-2 win over compatriot Madhurima Sawant. Zeel Desai, meanwhile, outplayed Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-3 to book her quarterfinals berth. Elsewhere, Russia's Ksenia Laskutova overcame India's Sandeepti Singh Rao in a hard-fought contest lasting over two hours, while sixth seed Ekaterina Yashina advanced after Kashish Bhatia retired with a right shoulder injury.

Results: Singles (Pre-quarters): Ksenia Laskutova bt Sandeepti Singh Rao (Ind) 6-4, 6-2; 4-Zeel Desai (Ind) bt Jennifer Luikham (Ind) 6-2, 6-3; 6-Ekaterina Yashina bt Kashish Bhatia (Ind) 4-0 (retired); 3-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind) bt Madhurima Sawant (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Arina Arifullina bt Pooja Ingale (Ind) 6-4, 6-2; 1-Justina Mikulskyte (LTU) bt Zuzanna Kolonus (POL) 0-6, 6-3, 6-1; 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (POL) bt Sonal Patil (Ind) 6-2, 6-4; 5-Elina Nepliy bt Laxmisiri Dandu (Ind) 6-1, 6-1.

HC upholds 2018 acquittal of 22 in Sohrabuddin case

Reasoned Judgment To Be Out Later

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Mumbai: Bombay high court on Thursday upheld the 2018 acquittal of 21 police officers from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and one civilian in the 2005 Sohrabuddin Shaikh 'fake encounter' case.

Appeals had been filed in April 2019 by Shaikh's brothers Rubabbudin Shaikh and Nayabuddin Shaikh against the trial court's acquittal verdict. "Appeals dismissed," HC chief justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad said while pronouncing the judgment.

The brothers, through their counsel Gautam Tiwari, argued the trial was "flawed" and the acquittals "meritless". The trial court ruling was reasoned and justified, argued additional solicitor general Anil Singh and special public prosecutor Amit Munde for CBI and senior counsel Amit Desai appearing for Narainsinh Dabhi, a former Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) police inspector who was among those acquitted. The HC found the appeals meritless. Gujarat and Rajasthan police were booked for allegedly staging the encounter of gangster Sohrabuddin Shaikh in the early hours of Nov 26, 2005 between Narol Circle and Vishala Circle in Ahmedabad and also of Tulsiram Parajapti at Ambaji in Gujarat on the morning of Dec 28, 2006. The policemen also faced trial for the disappearance and killing of Sohrabuddin's wife Kauser Bi, who was allegedly burned on Nov 27, 2005 and her body disposed of on Nov 28 in a village called Illol in Gujarat, which is situated on the banks of the Narmada river.

The investigation was initially handled by Gujarat's ATS and CID (crime) before Supreme Court transferred it to the CBI in 2010, with the trial shifted to a special trial court in Mumbai. Between 2014 to 2017, the special court discharged 16 accused, including then Gujarat minister Amit Shah, IPS officers Dinesh M N, Rajkumar Pandiyan and D G Vanzara, and former Rajasthan home minister Gulab Chand Kataria.

The civilian among those whose acquittals were upheld on Thursday was Rajendra Jeerawala, owner of a guesthouse in Gujarat.

According to CBI, he had knowledge that his guesthouse was used by policemen to keep Sohrabuddin Shaikh and Kausar Bi and thus facilitated their illegal detention.

Sohrabuddin's brothers, residents of Madhya Pradesh, said the loss of their brother and sister-in-law was irreparable and the state, represented through CBI, had not filed any appeal challenging the acquittal judgment.

BROTHERS MOVED HC

- On Nov 26, 2005, **gangster Sohrabuddin Shaikh killed** in 'encounter' in Ahmedabad
- **Guj, Rajasthan & AP cops among those tried** for Sohrab's killing, besides those of his **wife Kauser Bi & aide Tulsiram Prajapati**
- On Sept 27, 2012, **SC directs trial be shifted to Mumbai** court
- **City court acquits all 22** accused on Dec 21, 2018
- **Sohrab's brothers move HC** against acquittal on April 20, 2019, **but lose the appeal**

Chhattisgarh HC upholds acquittal of 8 in killing of 76 security personnel

Raipur: Chhattisgarh High Court (HC) earlier this week upheld the acquittal of eight accused in the 2010 Tadmetla massacre, in which 76 security personnel — including 75 CRPF jawans and one state police constable — were killed in a Maoist ambush, **reports Partha Behera.**

The division bench of Justices Ramesh Sinha and Ravindra Kumar Agrawal, in its May 5 order, expressed "deep pain" and "distress" over the failure of investigating agencies to produce legally admissible evidence in a case of national importance. The judges observed that mere suspicion, however strong, cannot substitute proof beyond reasonable doubt in criminal jurisprudence.

In the 2010 massacre, one of the deadliest Maoist ambushes in the country, the accused opened fire, triggered explosives, killed 76 personnel and looted weapons

In 2014, the state challenged a trial court's 2013 verdict acquitting 10 accused — including two men now dead and deleted — in connection with the April 10, 2010, attack near Tadmetla. The massacre, among the deadliest Maoist ambushes in the country, took place when personnel of CRPF's 62nd Bn were returning from an area domination operation in the forests of Chintalnar.

According to the prosecution, Maoists opened indiscriminate fire, triggered explosives, killed 76 personnel and looted weapons. The accused were charged under IPC Sections 148, 120B and 396, along with provisions of the Arms Act and the Explosive Substances Act. HC observed that the prosecution failed to establish a complete chain of circumstantial evidence, and none of the 43 witnesses identified the accused as perpetrators. The bench highlighted critical lapses in the investigation, noting that no test identification parade was conducted.

Op Sindoor anniv: No terror sanctuary safe, says ex-DGMO

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During Op, India destroyed 13 Pakistan aircraft, 11 airfields: Air Marshal Bharti

New Delhi: Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, Thursday said that during Op Sindoor, Indian forces had "destroyed 13 Pakistani aircraft" and struck "11 airfields", adding that the "proof is available for everyone to see", **reports Surendra Singh.** He also dismissed all repeated victory rhetorics by Pakistan. The heads of military operations of the IAF, Navy and the Indian Army addressed a press conference in Jaipur detailing various aspects of Op Sindoor.

Air Marshal Bharti said, "We struck and decimated their nine terrorist camps on May 7. We destroyed 13 of their aircraft either on the ground or in the air, including one high-value airborne asset at a record distance of 300 km plus," he said.

Jaipur: No terrorist sanctuary is safe anymore — former director general of military operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai's message was loud and clear Thursday as India marked one year of Operation Sindoor.

Calling it a defining moment in India's strategic journey, Ghai said the May 2025 operation had become "the gold standard both militarily and strategically across the world". India deliberately broke from its earlier playbook, he said. "We consciously moved beyond previous methods and targeted terror across the LoC and the international boundary with Pakistan," he said at the joint commanders' conference here.

Operation Sindoor, launched on the night of May 6-7 last year, involved coordinated strikes by Army, IAF and Navy assets on terror camps and military infrastructure across Pakistan and PoK after the Pahalgam attack on April 22 killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

India halted operations after Pak sought talks following sustained strikes. "In an era of prolonged conflicts around the world, we struck hard, achieved clearly defined objectives and then decided to cease hostilities when Pakistanis were compelled to negotiate and requested us to stop," he said.

Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal AK Bharti, who served as director general of air operations during the campaign, said Indian forces "struck and decimated" nine terrorist camps, targeted 11 Pakistani airfields and destroyed 13 aircraft "either on the ground or in the air", including "one high-value airborne asset at a record distance of more than 300km".

Woman accused held in TCS harassment case

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Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: A woman employee of Nashik-based Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), wanted in a case involving alleged sexual exploitation and "religious harassment" of a colleague, was arrested from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar late on Thursday night.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar commissioner of police (CP) Pravin Pawar told TOI the Nashik city police and the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar city police jointly conducted the operation. "The accused woman was detained from the Naregaon area of the city. She has been handed over to the Nashik city police. Further legal process is underway," Pawar said.

The police zeroed in on the woman employee of TCS five days after a sessions court at Nashik Road rejected her anticipatory bail plea. Two of her male colleagues have been named as co-accused in the case registered on March 26 with the Deolali Camp police in Nashik district.

An officer associated with the joint operation said the accused woman was staying at a relative's residence in the city. "We are investigating when and how she came to Sambhajinagar," he said.

According to the police, the main accused in the case worked as a team lead at the TCS office in Nashik. He allegedly concealed his marital status and sexually exploited the complainant by promising to marry her.

The police said another male colleague, named as a co-accused, allegedly sexually harassed the complainant at the office premises.

Dhaka will take action over 'push-in' from India

▶ Continued from P 1

We expect Bangladesh to expedite nationality verification so that repatriation of illegal immigrants can take place in a smooth manner," said the official.

The remarks came in response to media queries related to a social media post by Bangladesh's foreign minister Khalilur Rahman on the issue on Tuesday in which he said Dhaka will take action if there any "push-in" incidents from the Indian side. "These comments must be seen in the context of the core issue of repatriation of illegal Bangladeshis from India. This requires cooperation from Bangladesh," Jaiswal said.

Jaiswal also responded to another question on possible cooperation between Bangladesh and China on the management of the Teesta river.

"Between India and Bangladesh, we have 54 rivers that the two countries share. We have structured bilateral mechanisms to discuss all water-related issues. These bilateral mechanisms continue to meet at regular intervals," he said. Bangladesh's state-run BSS news agency reported on Thursday that foreign minister Rahman, during his ongoing visit to China, had sought Beijing's involvement and support for the Teesta river restoration project.

Foreign minister Rahman had sought Beijing's involvement and support for the Teesta river restoration project

Sindoor a powerful symbol of nat'l resolve & preparedness: Rajnath

▶ Continued from P 1

India has every right to defend itself against terrorism: MEA spokesperson

New Delhi: India has every right to defend itself against terrorism and it will continue to work to strengthen the global fight against terrorism, said govt on the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor that targeted terror sanctuaries in Pakistan last year.

"The entire world saw the Pahalgam attack for what it was. We gave a befitting reply to Pakistan for its sponsorship of cross-border terror," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal replying to media queries. He reiterated India's position that terror and talks can't go together. "The world knows that cross-border terrorism has long been an instrument of state policy for Pakistan. We, in India, have every right to defend ourselves against terrorism. We will continue to work to strengthen the global fight against terrorism," he said. TNN

The entire nation salutes our forces for their valour. Operation Sindoor reflected India's firm response against terrorism and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding national security," Modi said.

He further said, "Every Indian is proud of our armed forces. As a mark of respect to our forces and their success during Op Sindoor, let us all change our display pictures on social media, including X, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to the picture shared below." Heeding Modi's call, ministers in his govt and members of the ruling alliance, besides many social media users, changed their DP to the operation's official logo with the national flag atop.

The anniversary of Op Sindoor drew widespread praise for armed forces. Union home minister Amit Shah said it stands as an "epochal mission of India". "History will remember it as the day of the precise striking power of our armed forces, meticulous intelligence of our agencies, and resolute political will rising together as one to destroy each and every address of terror across the border that dared to cast an evil shadow on our citizens at Pahalgam," he said.

Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** said, "Op Sindoor stands as a powerful symbol of national resolve and preparedness, showing that our armed forces are always ready to act decisively when it matters most. It also stands as a testament to India's steady advance towards achieving atmanirbharta, enhancing capability while reinforcing resilience."

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Ball pool
Informal Seating
Kids Gym
Adventurous Play Area
Rock Climbing
Lego Wall

Learning
Library
Arts & Crafts Room
Crèche
Business Centre
Co-Working Space
Learning Centre

Gym
Digital Interactive Gym
TRX Training
Boxing Corner
Weight Lifting
Functional Training

Health & Fitness
Yoga/Meditation Zone
Steam Room
Indoor Jacuzzi
Salon
Spa

Indoor Sports
Squash Courts
Badminton Courts
Table Tennis
Foosball
Billiards
Pool Table
Soccer Pool
Board Games Corner
Indoor Golf Area
Terrace Multipurpose Court
Arcade Games
Air Hockey

OUTDOOR AMENITIES

Kids
Rock Climbing Wall
Sand Pit
Kids Jungle Gym
Children's Play Area
Trampoline
Tot Lot
Skating Rink
Interactive Floor Games

Sports, Fitness & Wellbeing
Yoga Deck
Meditation Pavilion
Outdoor Gym
Multipurpose Sports Court
Cricket Practice Net
Mini Maidan
Beach Volley Ball Court
Lawn Volley Ball Court
Tennis Court
Basket Ball Court
Pickle Ball Court
Kabaddi Court

Swimming Pool Amenities
Adults Pool
Kids Pool
Kids Splash Pad
Pool Side Party Lawn
Pool Volley Ball Net
Water Slide
Pool Side Lounges
Refreshment Counter
Pool Side Theatre
Sunken Seating
Basketball Pole
Pool Side Seating
Jacuzzi

Features & Entertainment
Bus Shelter
Terrain Seating
Pavilion
Amphitheatre
Reflexology Pathway
Palm Tree Plaza
Stepped Floral Garden
Party Lawn
Golf Putting
Pets Park
Pet Washing Station
Jogging And Walking Track
Cycling Track
Viewing Deck
Floral Garden
Sculpture Court
Seating Gallery
Camp Fire Zone
Forest Walkway
Hammocks Garden
Barbeque Zone
Elevated Walkway
Koi Pond
Lily Pond
Forest Adventurous Zone
Tree House
Fruit Orchard
Food Serving Counter
Elder Children's Play Area
Elder's Chitchat Zone
Aroma Garden
Parent's & Kids Swing Park
Central Park
Zen Garden
Camping Tents
Maze Garden
Mini Miyawaki Forest
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DIY Garden
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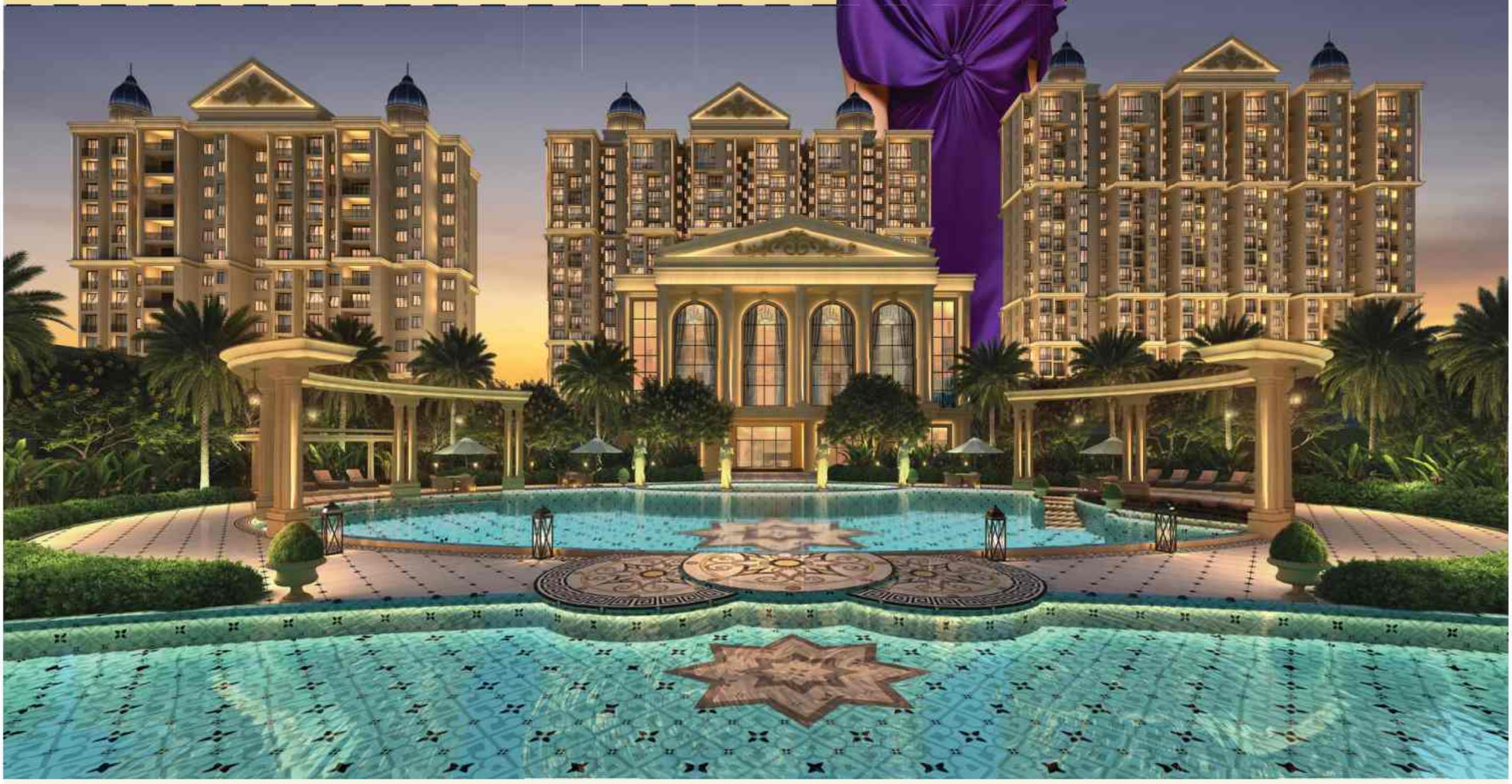

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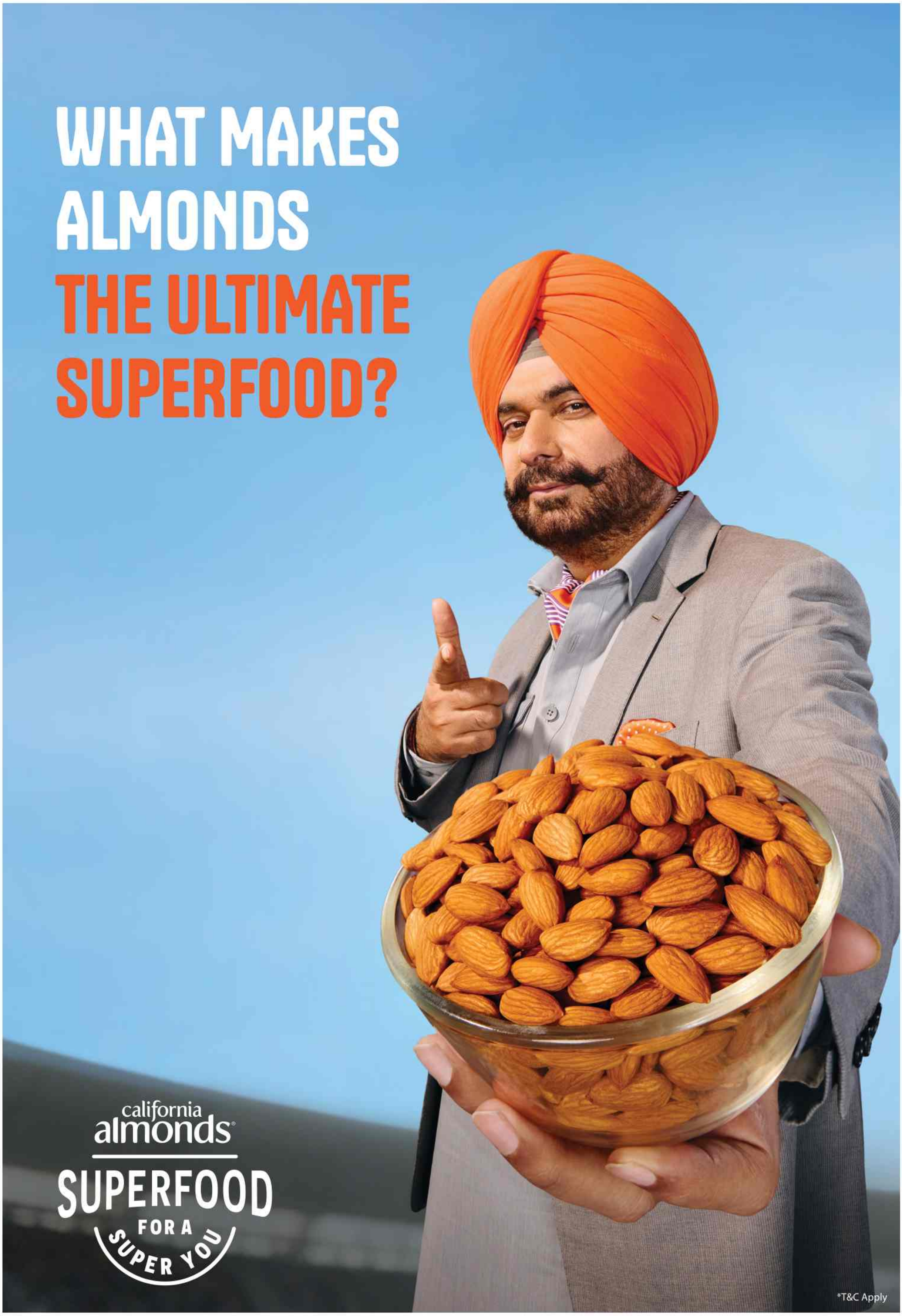

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 10 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND 6 PAGES OF TIMES PROPERTY* (*FOR CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Dozens of activists from anti-Kremlin art collective Pussy Riot protest against Putin in Venice to oppose Moscow's presence at the Venice Biennale

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

'I WASN'T FIRST CHOICE': ANNE HATHAWAY SAYS 8 OTHERS CONSIDERED FIRST FOR 'THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA' ROLE

WE LOVE LIFE, NOT BECAUSE WE ARE USED TO LIVING BUT BECAUSE WE ARE USED TO LOVING.
— FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

PERCEPTION THAT INFLUENCERS ARE 'STARS OF THE FUTURE' IS HORSES**T: ROBERT DOWNEY JR

Iran to vet, tax vessels for strait passage

Tehran Says Still Reviewing US Proposal

Iran has created a govt agency to vet and tax vessels seeking passage through the crucial Strait of Hormuz, a shipping data company reported Thursday, as Tehran said it was reviewing the latest US proposals for ending the war.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the Islamic Republic was reviewing messages from Pakistan, which is mediating peace negotiations, but Iran "has not yet reached a conclusion, and no response has been given to the US side," Iranian state TV reported.

Tehran and Washington have scaled back ambitions for a sweeping settlement as differences persist. Instead, they are working toward a temporary arrangement set out in a one-page memo aimed at preventing a return to conflict and stabilising shipping through the strait, the sources and officials said.

"Our priority is that they announce a permanent end to war and the rest of the issues could be thrashed out once they get back to direct talks," a senior Pakistani official involved in mediation between the two sides told Reuters.

Top Iranian officials have said Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is playing a key role in overseeing negotiations with the US, but he remains in hiding and has not appeared in public since he was wounded early in the war. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said he met recently for more than two hours with Khamenei.

The French navy's flagship aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, transits Suez Canal en route to the southern Red Sea to pre-position for a possible mission to restore navigation in the Strait of Hormuz

Meanwhile, US secretary of state Marco Rubio discussed West Asian peace efforts at the Vatican with Pope Leo XIV, whose opposition to the Iran war has led to open sparring with President Trump.

The Iranian effort to formalise control over the channel raised new concerns about international shipping, with hundreds of commercial ships bottled up in the Persian Gulf and unable to reach the open sea. Around 1,500 ships and their crews are trapped in the Gulf due to the Iranian blockade, the secretary general of the UN's International Maritime Organisation said on Thursday.

Trump also suspended an attempt by US military open a safe passage for commercial ships through the strait, saying the pause would allow more time to reach a peace agreement. An official in Saudi Arabia said Thursday that the kingdom and US ally refused to support Trump's effort to reopen the strait by force. Meanwhile, a finding that appears to raise new questions about Trump's optimism on ending the war, a confidential CIA analysis that concluded that Iran can survive the US naval blockade for at least 3-4 months before facing more severe economic hardship, according to the Washington Post.

Maritime law experts say Iran's demands to vet or tax vessels violate international law. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea calls for countries to permit peaceful passage through their territorial waters.

A Chinese-owned oil products tanker was attacked near the strait on Monday, media outlet Caixin reported, the first time a vessel from that country has been targeted.

The ceasefire between US and Iran has largely held since April 8. But in-person talks between the two countries hosted by Pakistan last month failed to reach an agreement. The war began Feb 28, when the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran. "We expect an agreement sooner rather than later," Pakistani foreign ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Thursday.

On Thursday, US imposed sanctions on Iraq's deputy oil minister and militias over support for Iran. The treasury department accused Iraq's deputy minister, Ali Maarij Al-Bahadly, of abusing "his position to facilitate the diversion of oil to be sold for the benefit of the Iranian regime and its proxy militias in Iraq". Iraq's oil ministry and the deputy minister did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a related development, US on Thursday also urged Iran to free Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi after her supporters warned she was at risk of dying in custody. AGENCIES

Israel kills Hezbollah elite unit chief ahead of talks with Lebanon

Representatives of Israel and Lebanon will hold their third round of talks in Washington on May 14 and 15, a US state department official said on Thursday, as the US presses the two countries to reach a lasting peace agreement even as Israel continues to strike Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. The official did not say who would participate in the meeting.

On Thursday, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said there was no "immunity" for Israel's enemies, a day after the country's military targeted a Hezbollah commander, Ahmed Ali Balout. Israel said Balout was head of the Iran-backed group's elite Radwan force. Hezbollah was yet to issue any statement on the strike or the commander's status.

The Israeli airstrike took place in the densely populated Haret Hreik neighbourhood. A warship also fired three missiles at a residential building in the area, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency.

An Israeli air strike Thursday also killed the son of Khalil Al-Hayya, Hamas's chief negotiator in US-mediated talks over Gaza's future, a senior Hamas official said Thursday. He was the fourth son of Al-Hayya to have been killed in Israeli attacks. AGENCIES

The Israeli military opened an investigation into a soldier photographed shoving a cigarette into the mouth of a statue of the Virgin Mary in Lebanon, the latest in a **string of high-profile incidents targeting Christians and religious symbols.** Israel drew international criticism after a soldier photographed himself bludgeoning a statue of Jesus with an axe. On Thursday, **Israel indicted a Jewish man over a violent attack on a nun near Jerusalem's Old City** last week

B'desh seeks China support for Teesta restoration project

Ahsan Tasnim

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi only said Beijing was willing to continue providing Dhaka with assistance to the best of its ability

Dhaka: The Tarique Rahman-led Bangladesh govt has sought China's "involvement and support" for the Teesta restoration project, a move that risks clouding New Delhi-Dhaka relations, as the latter pushes India to work towards implementing the 2011 Teesta water-sharing treaty blocked by outgoing West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee.

Dhaka has been demanding a greater share of Teesta's waters under the agreement — which is pending for many reasons, including lack of coordination between Centre and Bengal. Many in Bangladesh hope that with BJP, which is at the Centre, soon to form govt in Bengal, there is an opportunity to revisit the treaty.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, following a meeting with Bangladeshi counterpart Khalilur Rahman here on Wednesday, said China supported Bangladesh's new govt in maintaining unity and stability, revitalising economic development and improving people's well-being.

The two sides discussed issues related to the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project — a major initiative by Dhaka to dredge, embank, and manage the river that flows through Sikkim and Bengal in India before entering Bangladesh — majorly for flood control and irrigation, govt officials said.

Without being specific, Wang only said China was willing to continue providing Bangladesh with support and assistance to the best of its ability.

China was ready to promote alignment of the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with Bangladesh's national development strategies, deepen cooperation in traditional areas like economy, trade, investment, infrastructure, water conservancy and people-to-people exchanges, he said. Wang said China was also looking at expanding cooperation in emerging industries, such as green development and digital economy.

Khalilur said China had always been a trustworthy and indispensable friend and partner to Bangladesh.

Nepal oppn wants Balen to hold Lipulekh talks with India

Nepali Congress-led opposition MPs on Thursday pressed Balendra Shah govt "to move beyond diplomatic notes" and open high-level talks with India and China to "reclaim" Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani — Indian territories Kathmandu claims is theirs, reports **Vishant Agarwala**.

The demand was raised at the house of representatives' international relations and tourism committee in Singha Durbar amid fresh unease over India and China using the Lipulekh route for trade and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra without Nepal's consent.

Nepali Congress MP Sandip Rana said Nepal should not delay direct "table talks" with both neighbours. "Lipulekh is our land, and it is being used for the Kailash Mansarovar journey," Rana said..

CPN (UML) MP Bhumika Limbu Subba called India's response on Lipulekh "irresponsible". Maoist Centre MP Pramesh Kumar Hamal urged govt to take other political forces into confidence.

Nepal's ministry of foreign affairs had sent diplomatic notes to India and China after New Delhi announced the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. India said its position was "consistent and clear".

2 former China def ministers sentenced to death for graft

Beijing: A Chinese military court handed suspended death sentences to two former defence ministers for corruption on Thursday, state media said.

They are the harshest sentences that Beijing has given high-ranking military officials as part of President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption purge since coming to office in 2012.

The sentences against Wei Fenghe (72) and Li Shangfu (68) will be "commuted to life imprisonment" after a two-year reprieve, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

The ex-ministers, who served between 2018 and 2023, were also former members of China's Central Military Commission, which oversees the military and is headed by Xi. They also appeared regularly on television along with other officials.

Wei was convicted of accepting bribes and Li was convicted of accepting and offering bribes, Xinhua said. The pair were also stripped of their political rights for life as well as their personal property. AFP

White House set to review rules that may affect int'l students and exchange visitors

Lubna Kably

India is the leading country of origin of international students in the US. According to the latest Open Doors Report, during 2024-25, there were 3.6L Indian students in US. While the number of new students from India is falling, the cohort will continue to be significant

The US department of homeland security has submitted to the office of management and budget a 'final' regulation that will replace the current 'duration of status' policy for international students (F visa holders), exchange visitors (J visa holders), representatives of foreign information media (I visa holders), and their dependents with a fixed tenure.

This means that international students and others covered by the new policy will have to seek periodical visa extensions and undergo biometrics. OMB is an agency within the White House and its clearance is the last step in the rulemaking process before the regulation is published in the federal register. While the contents of the final rule remain unknown till publication, immigration experts do not expect much variance with the proposed regulation, that was analysed by **TOI** in Aug 2025.

Currently, international students or exchange visitors are admitted for the duration of their programmes, with schools and exchange sponsors responsible for monitoring compliance through the SEVIS tracking system. The proposed regulation had capped the visa tenure of F-1 and J-1 to a maximum of four years. A tenure of two years for English language programmes and a year for public high schools had also been proposed. A grace period of 60 days is currently available so that international students can prepare to depart the US or apply for an extension or change of status, following the completion of their initial programme or practical training. The proposed regulation had halved it to 30 days.

A change in regulations has other far-reaching consequences. Currently, international students only begin to accrue unlawful presence if USCIS or an immigration judge formally finds that the individual has violated their non-immigrant status. If the rule is finalised as proposed, they would begin accruing unlawful presence as soon as their specified period expires. An unlawful presence of over 180 days or over one year results in a re-entry bar of three and 10 years, respectively.

The rule would also prohibit international undergraduates from changing programmes, majors, or education levels within their first year. Graduates would be prohibited from changing study programmes altogether. An international student who completes one degree programme will not be allowed to start another programme at the same level or a lower level while staying in F-1 status.

Russia declares truce as Ukraine launches drones

Air defences shot down 347 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's defence ministry said on Thursday, in what appeared to be a major attack after Moscow spurned Kyiv's ceasefire earlier in the week and tension mounted over safety at Russia's upcoming Victory Day celebrations. Incoming drones were destroyed over 20 Russian regions, the ministry said.

Victory Day in Russia marks the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in WWII. Russian authorities have declared a unilateral ceasefire from May 8-10.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, however, said, "Russia has not stopped its military activity. Ukraine will act symmetrically."

Ukrainian drones struck a Lukoil-owned refinery in Perm, near Ural Mountains, Kyiv's drone forces commander said, the second attack on the facility in eight days. AGENCIES

Countries race to trace passengers of hantavirus ship

Madrid: More than two dozen people from at least 12 countries left a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak without contact tracing nearly two weeks after the first passenger died on board, the ship's operator and Dutch officials said Thursday.

Health authorities on at least four continents are now tracking down and, in some cases, monitoring the cruise passengers who disembarked on April 24. WHO said the risk to the wider public was low because hantavirus — usually spread by the inhalation of contaminated rodent droppings — wasn't easily transmitted between people.

The Dutch health ministry said a flight attendant on a plane boarded by a cruise passenger in South Africa was showing symptoms and would be tested at a hospital in Amsterdam. The passenger later died. If the flight attendant tests positive, she could be the first known person not on the MV Hondius to be infected in the outbreak.

WHO said, including the three fatalities, there were now eight confirmed cases from the ship, with three more suspected Three people, including the ship's doctor, were evacuated on Wednesday while the vessel was near Cape Verde and taken to hospitals in Europe.

AP

Medics escort an evacuated passenger to an ambulance at Schiphol airport, Amsterdam

Oceanwide Expeditions, the cruise ship company, said 30 passengers left the vessel at St Helena, while the Dutch foreign ministry put the number at about 40. A man tested positive for hantavirus in Switzerland. Singaporean health authorities said they were monitoring two men who got off at St Helena and flew to South Africa before heading home. British health officials said two people who flew home midway through the journey were self-isolating. Authorities in St Helena said they were monitoring a small number of people considered "higher risk contacts".

The vessel is now sailing to Spain's Canary Islands with over 140 on board. AP

Co-founder of Superdry gets 8-yr jail for rape

London: The co-founder of British fashion brand Superdry, James Holder, was sentenced to eight years in jail for rape on Thursday by a court in southwest England.

A jury found Holder (54) guilty last week of raping a woman in 2022 after meeting her in a bar in Cheltenham.

Judge David Chidgey called the rape by the multimillionaire "a despicable piece of sexual violence". He said, "It was about your sense of entitlement and your sense of doing what you wanted and your causal disregard for the victim's absolute right to say what she wanted to do with her own body."

Holder was one of the co-founders of Superdry in 2003, but left the group in 2016. AFP

Note found after Epstein 'suicide attempt' released

New York: A note Jeffrey Epstein's former cellmate claimed he found after the millionaire sex offender's first suspected jail suicide attempt was made public on Wednesday, years after being sealed in a courthouse vault.

US district judge Kenneth Karas in White Plains, New York, ordered the release of the note after The New York Times asked him last week to unseal it in a case involving the former cellmate, Nicholas Tartaglione.

Few people had known about the note until Tartaglione, a former police officer serving a life sentence for killing four people, mentioned it last year on writer Jessica Reed Kraus' podcast.

Tartaglione claimed he discovered the note in a book after Epstein was found in their cell at a Manhattan federal jail on July 23, 2019, with a strip of bedsheet around his neck. That was about three weeks before Epstein was found dead in his cell.

Epstein's former cellmate said he found the note in a book

"They investigated me for month — found nothing!!!" says the note. "It is a treat to be able to choose" the "time to say goodbye", it continues. "Watcha want me to do — Bust out cryin!!"

"NO FUN," it concludes. "NOT WORTH IT!!" AP

Key test for Starmer as Brits vote in local polls

London: Britons voted Thursday in local elections set to heap more pressure on beleaguered Labour PM **Keir Starmer** and energise the rise of hard-right and left-wing populists.

The ballot across Scotland, England and Wales is Starmer's biggest electoral test since his July 2024 general election landslide victory over the Conservatives. Opinion polls predict grim results for Labour, which could amplify calls for Starmer (63) to resign or face a long-rumoured party leadership challenge. The PM and his wife voted at a polling station near Parliament in Westminster.

Nigel Farage's anti-immigrant Reform UK and the left-wing Greens, led by self-described eco-populist Zack Polanski, are expected to benefit from widespread disillusionment. Melanie Garson, associate professor of politics at University College London, said the vote was a "huge barometer for how the country is feeling about this political establishment", adding, "We've got, for the first time, significant pressure on the main political parties across every single council."

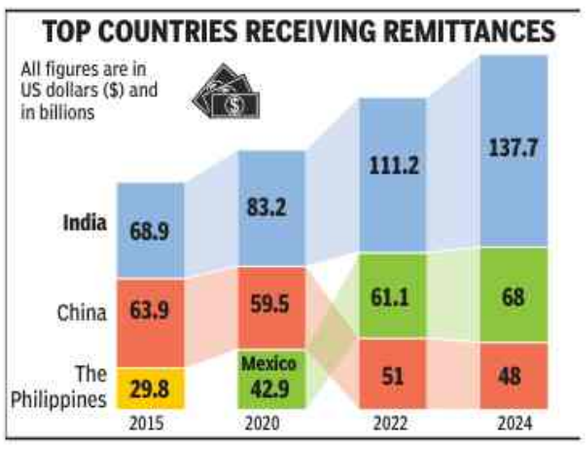
Some results are expected overnight, but most will not come until Friday. Around 5,000 local council seats, out of 16,000, are up for grabs across England, while in Wales and Scotland voters will elect new devolved Parliaments. AFP

India tops global remittances with $138bn inflow

Times News Network

India's diaspora is the largest at around 19 million, with significant numbers of international immigrants living in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia. With this backing, India continued as the top country receiving remittances, but 2024 was spectacular with inflows of $138 billion.

The country also emerges as one of the biggest source countries for student and skilled migration, according to World Migration Report 2026 released by International Organisation for Migration.



According to the report, India was the only country to cross the $100-billion remittance mark, underlining the enormous economic footprint of the Indian diaspora spread across the world.

The report noted that remittance inflows into India had risen sharply over a decade from around $53 billion in 2010 to over $137 billion in 2024, driven by strong earnings by Indian workers and professionals in the US, the UAE, UK, Canada and Australia. Mexico, with inward remittances of $68 billion, was the second-largest recipient in 2024, China's inward remittances in 2022 were $48 billion.

India's dominance in remittance flows comes amid a broader transformation in migration patterns. While Gulf nations continue to employ millions in construction, services and domestic work, the report highlighted the rapid rise in high-skilled migration from India, particularly in technology, healthcare, engineering and research sectors.

The report does not reflect the top source countries of inward remittances to India, but understandably it would be from top diaspora countries.

DAILY PLANET

German town braces for end to life with US troops

The Bavarian town of Vilseck has hosted US forces since the end of WWII and could bear the brunt of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw at least 5,000 troops from Germany. Although details of the units affected by the order have not been confirmed, the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment based at Rose Barracks is expected to go. "The consequences would be dramatic," said the town's new mayor, Thorsten Graedler, who took office this week facing the prospect of thousands of job losses in a rural area where the base is one of the biggest employers for miles around. Over the years, he said, the presence of the base, with its thousands of well-paying jobs for local people and steady stream of customers for local businesses, had produced a situation of dependence. The decision to withdraw troops came amid increasing pressure from Washington on European countries to raise defence spending, and accusations that reliance on US forces had allowed them to neglect their own militaries.

EU strikes deal to ban sexualised AI deepfakes

European Union lawmakers and countries agreed to ban artificial intelligence systems generating sexualised deepfakes on Thursday, after global outrage over non-consensual nudes produced by Elon Musk's chatbot Grok. "The EU has drawn a red line. AI must never be used to humiliate, exploit or endanger people. For the first time, EU legislation explicitly bans nudifier applications," centrist EU lawmaker Michael McNamara said. The new ban will be included in changes to the EU's comprehensive rules on AI, adopted in 2024. EU negotiators from the European parliament and capitals also agreed to delay the implementation of high-risk AI rules, concerning models deemed potentially dangerous to safety, health or citizens' fundamental rights.

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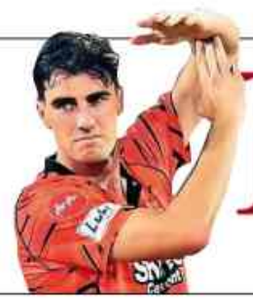

Cricket Aus exempts its players, including skipper Pat Cummins, from ODI series against Pak & allows them to fulfil their IPL-2026 commitments

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TENSION IN REAL MADRID DRESSING ROOM AS FEDERICO VALVERDE RUSHED TO HOSP FOLLOWING SCUFFLE WITH TEAMMATE AURELIEN TCHOUAMENI

Mumbai family died of rat poison in watermelon; cops to probe

Eshan Kalyanikar & Mateen Hafeez | TNN

Mumbai: Eleven days and 54 tests later, the forensic labs in Kalina, Mumbai, found that rat poison in the watermelon killed four members of the Dokadia family in Bhendi Bazaar.

Senior forensic officials from state forensic labs (FSL) said zinc phosphide (rat poison) was found within the fruit as well as the viscera (internal organs). This includes liver and spleen samples as well as bile. "There was no indication of external contamination on the fruit. The poison was on the inside. It is unlikely to have entered the fruit through an injection," FSL official said.

Officials said how this substance ended up inside the fruit will now form a central part of police probe.

▶Will investigate, P 9

No quick fixes for UCC, popn control, says RSS chief

Mysuru: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat Thursday said issues such as population control, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and caste-based politics need long-term planning, wider public debate and greater social awareness, rather than forced changes or quick fixes.

Speaking at a golden jubilee lecture series on 'social harmony as a driver of national development' at JSS Mahavidyapeetha in Suttur Mutt, Mysuru dist, he said caste-based politics would fade only when society moved beyond caste divisions. TNN

▶Social realities, P 5

B'gavi may host monsoon session

In a first, Karnataka may convene a monsoon session of the legislature in Belagavi this June. CM Siddaramaiah has discussed a 10-day sitting there, breaking from the long-standing practice of holding only winter sessions in the city. P 5

Wish judges appointed as speedily as ECs: SC

Hears Plea On Validity Of 2023 Appointments

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New Delhi: The appointment of Gyanesh Kumar (now CEC) and S S Sandhu as election commissioners in 2023 — who were shortlisted, cleared and appointed within a day — was the focus of a hearing on Thursday in Supreme Court, which "wished" that govt show the same urgency in appointment of judges.

Kumar and Sandhu's appointments were the first under the new law — CEC and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 — by a panel of PM, a Union Cabinet minister and the LoP, the validity of which is being examined by SC.

Emphasising EC's independence is as important as the independence of the judiciary, petitioners contended before a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma that the executive and govt shouldn't have a dominant say in the poll panel's postings, as it would result in appointment of a "yes man", severely affecting EC's impartiality, which is the bedrock of the republic and democracy.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, for petitioner Jaya Thakur, told the bench that Kumar and Sandhu were appointed without holding effective consultation. He said names were not shortlisted till March 13, 2023, and the LoP was given a list of 200 names, which were being considered, but the selection committee met and selected them out of six names the very next day. "This is what happens when you give absolute power to one individual. How can LoP be expected to look into so many names in a day?" he said.

▶MPs suspended, P 8

IN THE COURTS

- Court in Gandhinagar **recognises deceased person's digital data**, cloud a/c as part of inheritable estate **under Indian Succession Act**, grants letters of administration for daughter to recover iPhone iCloud account | P 9
- **In SC, Dawoodi Bohra woman raises issue of 7-yr-old girls being subjected to genital mutilation**, terms it an invasion of privacy | P 8
- Chhattisgarh HC flags failures in 2010 **Tadmetla massacre probe, upholds acquittal** of 8 accused
- **Individuals challenging religious practices would break religion and courts** as thousands would clog courts with PILs to seek quashing of customs and norms: SC | P 8
- Calcutta HC grants **stay of 8 weeks on the payment of ₹765.7cr award money** by West Bengal Industrial Development Corpn Ltd to Tata Motors in connection with **Singur project**
- Delhi court orders **framing of charges** against Okhla AAP MLA **Amanatullah** Khan in criminal case

India steadfast in resolve to defeat terror, says PM, puts Op Sindoor as DP

Kumar.Rakesh@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India remains steadfast as ever in its resolve to defeat terrorism and destroy its enabling ecosystem, PM Modi said Thursday, as he changed display pictures (DP) on his social media handles to an image of Operation Sindoor as a mark of respect to armed forces on the first anniversary of the country's robust military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

▶Somnath and Bharat's unconquerable spirit, writes PM Modi, Page 7

PM Modi said, "A year ago, our armed forces displayed unparalleled courage, precision and resolve during Op Sindoor. They gave a fitting response to those who dared to attack innocent Indians at Pahalgam."

No terror hub safe now, says Lt Gen

No terrorist sanctuary is safe anymore, said former DGMO Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai on Thursday in Jaipur on the first anniversary of Op Sindoor. "We consciously moved beyond previous methods and targeted terror across LoC and international boundary," he said. Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal AK Bharti said Indian forces decimated nine terrorist camps, targeted 11 Pakistani airfields and destroyed 13 aircraft. P 16

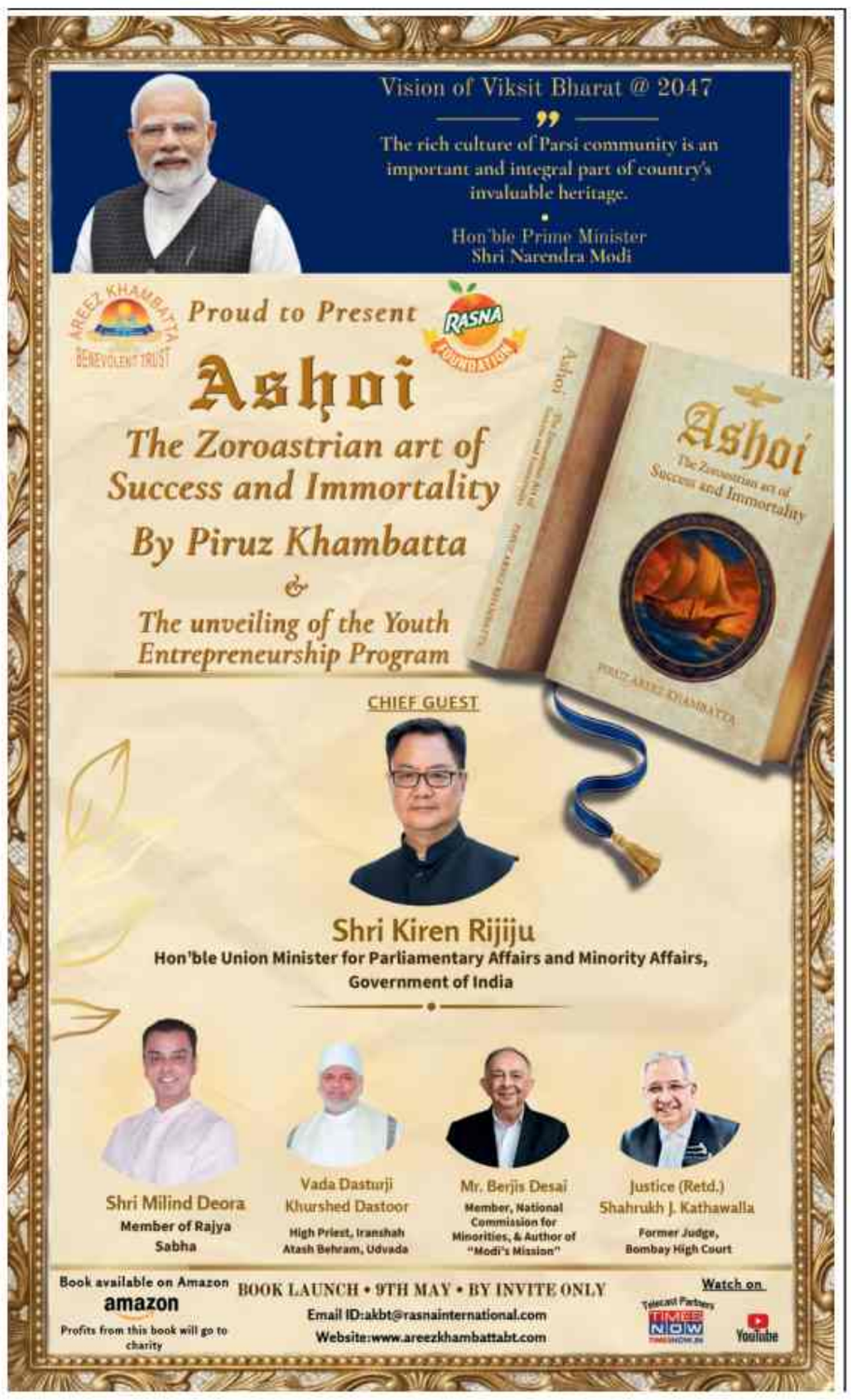
▶Powerful symbol, P 16

Chandrachud to mediate in Kapurs' dispute

New Delhi: Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has been roped in to settle the high-profile property dispute between late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother Rani Kapur and his wife Priya Kapur over the family trust, tied to his Rs 30,000 crore estate.

As they expressed willingness for mediation, Supreme Court on Thursday appointed the ex-CJI as mediator and asked the parties to explore an amicable settlement. "It is a family dispute. Let it be confined among the family only. It should not be a source of entertainment," a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan told them. TNN

▶Posted for August, P 8



HC upholds 22 acquittals in '05 Sohrab case

Bombay HC on Thursday upheld the 2018 acquittal of 21 police officers and one civilian in the 2005 Sohrabuddin Shaikh "fake encounter" case. Appeals by Shaikh's brothers were dismissed. The court agreed with the trial court's reasoning, which found no evidence of conspiracy and noted that many witnesses had turned hostile. P 16

482 arrests in 48-hour-long crime sweep

In a 48-hour-long crime sweep across states, Delhi police has made 482 arrests of suspects allegedly tied to Indian and Pakistani crime syndicates. Police said among the arrested were 9 operatives of ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti module. Investigators said the module was plotting attacks on security personnel across North India, including Delhi-NCR. TNN

Skyroot becomes first space tech unicorn of India

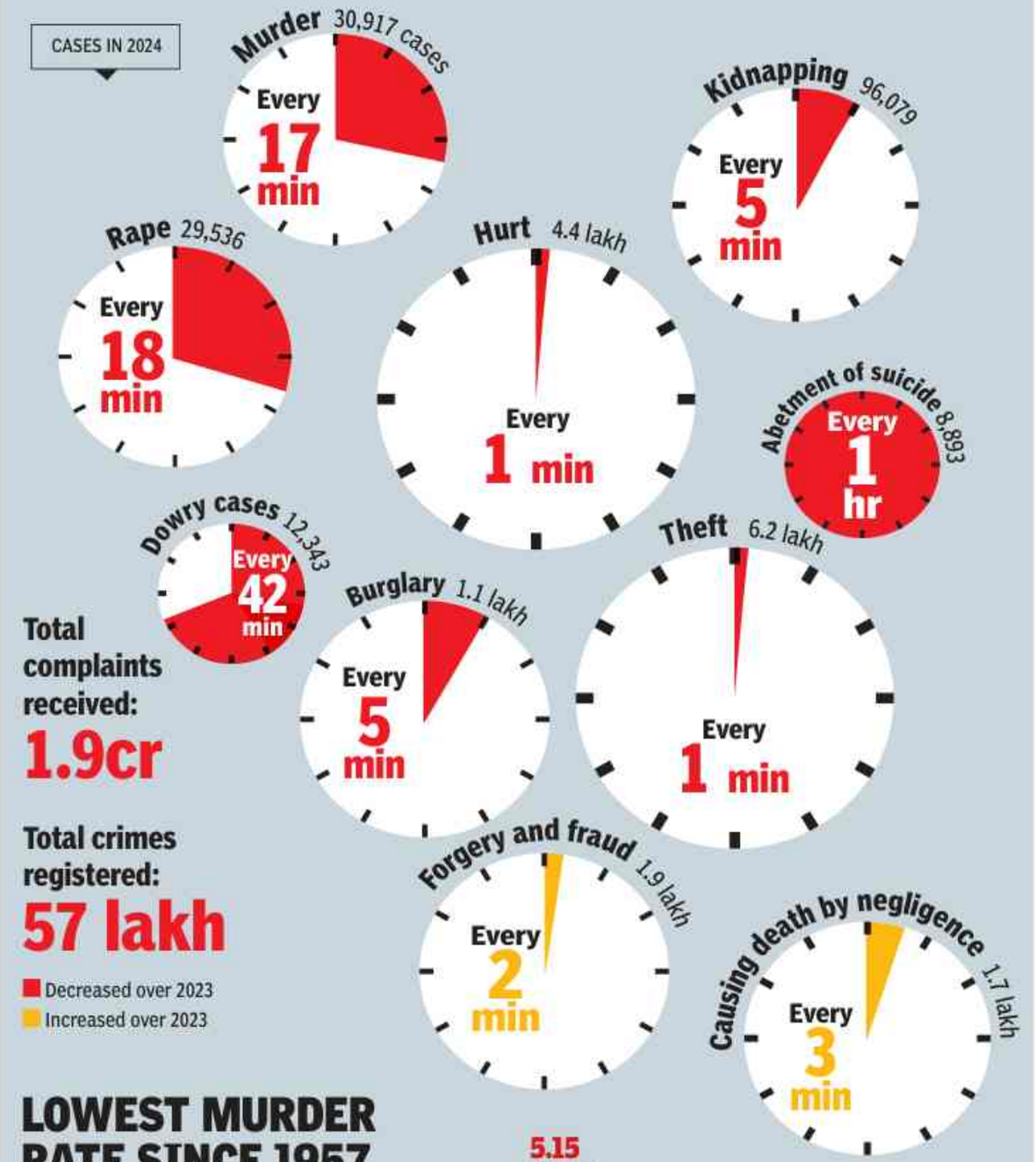
Skyroot Aerospace has become India's first space tech unicorn, bagging a fresh $60 million funding co-led by Sherpalo Ventures and GIC at a valuation of $1.1 billion, over double its last valuation of about $500m. Skyroot is a private space launch firm that launched Vikram-S, India's first privately built rocket to reach space. P 13

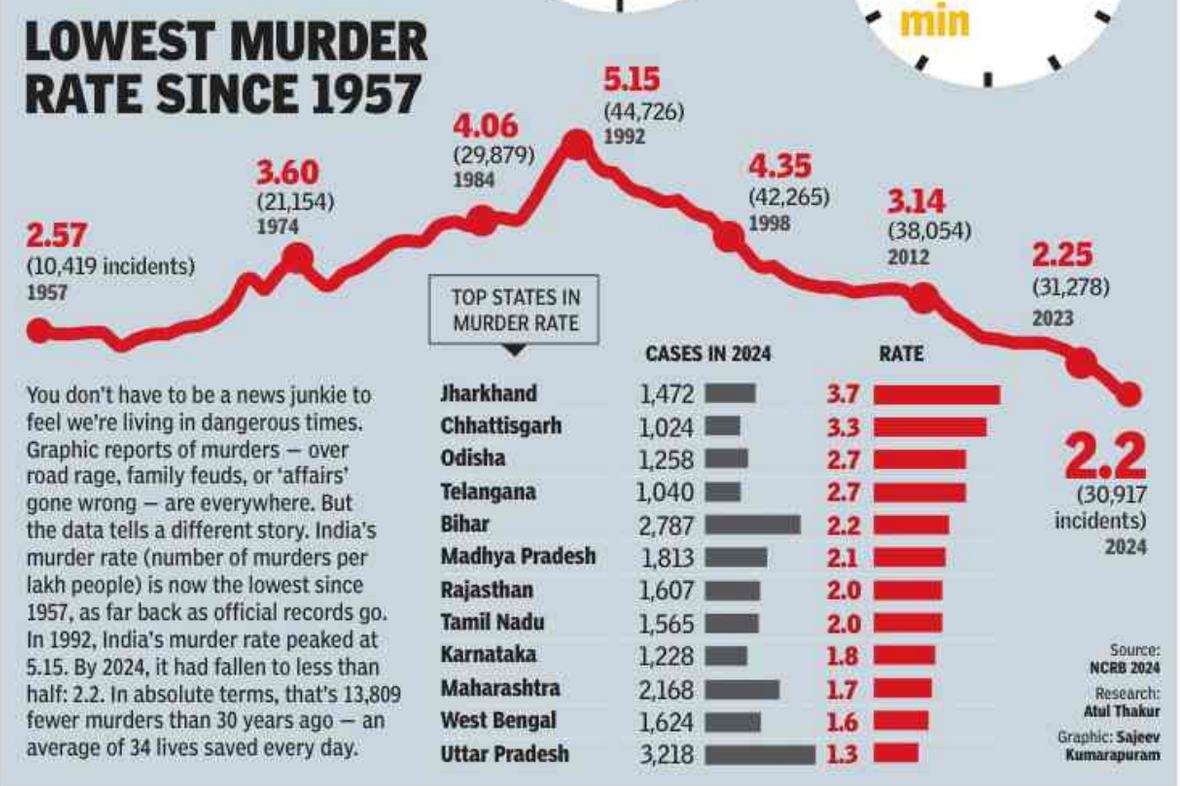
INDIA'S CRIME CLOCK

Frequency of different crimes

Ever imagined how many crimes take place in India every second, minute or hour? It might seem shocking that every minute seven IPC incidents (crimes defined under Indian Penal Code/Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) took place in 2024. There were four SLL incidents (crimes codified under state-specific laws) every minute in the country. But these are the incidents happening all over the country with a population of about 1.4 billion people. Most types of crime show a declining trend, per the latest NCRB report.

In 2024, nearly 2 crore criminal complaints were received, of which FIRs were filed for over 57 lakh. Some crimes are shockingly frequent: one rape every 18 minutes, one murder and culpable homicide every 17 minutes. Less visible but equally widespread are over 12 legal categories of "hurt", ranging from simple assault (over 5 lakh cases) to acid attacks (202). The clocks on this page show how often major crimes occur in India. In July 2024, the IPC was replaced by the BNS.





You don't have to be a news junkie to feel we're living in dangerous times. Graphic reports of murders — over road rage, family feuds, or 'affairs' gone wrong — are everywhere. But the data tells a different story. India's murder rate (number of murders per lakh people) is now the lowest since 1957, as far back as official records go. In 1992, India's murder rate peaked at 5.15. By 2024, it had fallen to less than half: 2.2. In absolute terms, that's 13,809 fewer murders than 30 years ago — an average of 34 lives saved every day.

Source: NCRB 2024
Research: Atul Thakur
Graphic: Sajeev Kumarapuram

10,546 farm suicides in 2024, 2% dip from previous year: Data

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New Delhi: A total of 10,546 people involved in farming sector (comprising 4,633 farmers/cultivators and 5,913 agricultural labourers) died by suicide during 2024, accounting for 6.2% of total suicide victims (1,70,746) in the country, says the latest report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The number of such suicides, however, declined by more than 2% in 2024 compared with 2023 when 10,786 people died by suicide, making it the second consecutive year of decline. In 2023, the number had fallen by more than 4% compared with 2022.

State-wise figures show Maharashtra continues to report the highest number of such suicides (3,824), followed by Karnataka (2,971), Madhya Pradesh (835), Andhra Pradesh (780) and Tamil Nadu (503). According to 2011 Census, agriculture employed roughly 26 crore people (nearly 55% of country's workforce), of whom nearly 12 crore were cultivators and 14 crore were agricultural labourers.

NCRB clarified the data depict only the profession of people who died by suicide and has no linkage whatsoever with the cause of suicide.

WASTELAND

At the same time, high numbers in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh coincide with regions where farmers primarily cultivate cash crops like cotton and sugarcane.

Failure or low output of such crops push the distressed towards moneylenders to meet their need for cash, with some of them even taking the extreme step.

Increasing footprint of crop insurance, affordable farm loan from banks and income support schemes could be reason for the marginal decline in suicide numbers.

'Crimes on children' rose by 6% in 2024 versus 2023: NCRB

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New Delhi: With 'crime against children' across various categories reflecting a rise of about 6% in 2024 compared to 2023, data shows that of 1.87 lakh cases in 2024, offences under stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act accounted for 69,191 cases (37%), involving 70,132 child victims.

Of these 69,000 plus cases, 44,126 cases, involving 44,567 victims, relate to the law's heinous crime sections 4 and 6, which define punishments for child sexual assault. While Section 4 penalises "penetrative sexual assault" with a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment, section 6 governs "aggravated penetrative sexual assault", imposing stricter penalties of 20 years to life or death, particularly for children under 12 years of age.

The gender profile of Pocso victims under these sections shows 43,675 were girls and 892 boys. While 23,368 victims, including 129 boys, were in the 16-18 years age group, 16,801, including 369 boys, were in the 12-16 age group. As many as 3,438 victims, including 351 boys, were between 6 to 12 years. There were 831 victims below six years of age and 43 of them were boys.

The data like in past years yet again reinforces that most often it is a known person who takes advantage of the vulnerability of a child. In cases under sections 4 and 6, data shows that in 96.6% of cases a known person, including family members, neighbours, online friends and friends, was involved.

1L 2-wheeler riders, pedestrians killed on roads in 2024

At least six in every 10 road crash victims in India in 2024 were two-wheeler riders/pedestrians, according to the latest NCRB report. An analysis of four years of data shows a steady rise in both the share and number of such deaths amid govt's focus on making cars safer. NCRB data for 2024 show more than 1.1 lakh deaths — 64% of total 1.75 lakh road fatalities — were of two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. — **Dipak Dash**